

FINANCIAL TIMES



Gwilym Simcock
Good Days at Schloss
Elmau

ACT

★★★★☆

The Welsh-born pianist plays up his classical roots on this solo set of eight studio-recorded originals. The lush opening captures the Bavarian retreat's opulence, pointillist ripples on "Mezzotint" add a pensive touch and the blues-inflected pedal point of "Gripper" menace. There is songbook-flavoured impressionism, a percussive reveille and lots of tricky counterpoint. Beautifully recorded with ample room for Simcock to ferret round his self-penned themes.