

Music: Debuts in Review

A Harpsichordist, a Soprano, an Organist

By TIM PAGE

Brigitte Haudebourg

Brigitte Haudebourg plays the harpsichord with flair, expertise and the grand manner of a virtuoso. Not for her the tinkling, timid interpretations of too many early-music specialists with their desiccated, self-conscious and exasperatingly correct trills. She is a musician first, a scholar second, her performances are extroverted and often very exciting. Ms. Haudebourg studied at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique in Paris, where she worked with Marcelle Delacour; her later teachers include Robert Veyron-Lacroix. She has recorded many albums for the Arion label. Her program was devoted mainly to Baroque composers — Rameau, Couperin, Scarlatti and Bach — with several selections from Bartok's "Mikrokosmos" as seasoning. These proved especially diverting, for the music takes on unusual coloration

when realized on the harpsichord. One also admired the Bach "Chromatic Fantasy and Fugue"; the introduction was replete with manic fripperies, the fugue sober and inexorable.

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