

Playing  
Time  
71:40

# CHOPIN RECORDINGS • 2

1938-1952

Benno Moiseiwitsch (1890-1963)

8.111118

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## Fryderyk Chopin (1810-1849):

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| <p><b>1-24</b> 24 <i>Préludes</i>, Op. 28<br/>Recorded 29th-30th December 1948, and 20th September 1949</p> <p><b>25</b> <i>Ballade No. 1 in G minor</i>, Op. 23<br/>Recorded 23rd September 1938 and 17th March 1939</p> <p><b>26</b> <i>Ballade No. 2 in F</i>, Op. 38<br/>Recorded 22nd August 1947</p> <p><b>27</b> <i>Ballade No. 3 in A flat</i>, Op. 47<br/>Recorded 23rd September 1938 and 17th March 1939</p> <p><b>28</b> <i>Ballade No. 4 in F minor</i>, Op. 52<br/>Recorded 22nd August 1947</p> <p><b>29</b> <i>Fantaisie-Impromptu in C sharp minor</i>, Op. 66<br/>Recorded 11th January 1952</p> | <p><b>35:06</b></p> <p><b>8:18</b></p> <p><b>7:03</b></p> <p><b>7:05</b></p> <p><b>9:29</b></p> <p><b>4:38</b></p> |
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All tracks were recorded in Studio 3, Abbey Road, London

This second volume of Moiseiwitsch's Chopin recordings focuses on the complete *Preludes*, Op. 28, which the great pianist had attempted to record, unsuccessfully, with the acoustic process, and the *Four Ballades*. The recording of the complete *Preludes* is one of the most satisfactory on disc, as Moiseiwitsch captures perfectly the mood of each of these miniature masterpieces. The slower preludes in particular show Moiseiwitsch's understanding of musical phrasing linked to harmonic progressions. In combination with his ideal projection of the singing line, this gives the impression that the music is a living and breathing entity. In the faster preludes, particularly *No. 16* and *No. 24*, Moiseiwitsch never loses control of tempo or dynamics and the ornaments and figuration of the last *Prelude* become part of the organic whole. The recording of the *Ballade No. 4*, his only 78rpm recording of the work, derives from a test pressing.

A detailed track list can be found in the booklet.  
Producers and Audio Restoration Engineer: Ward Marston  
Special thanks: Donald Manildi

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Cover Photograph: Benno Moiseiwitsch [Private Collection]

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