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RACHMANINOV: Music for Two Pianos

NAXOS

Rachmaninov's two Suites for two pianos are among the biggest and most original works for the medium, no less inspired or tuneful than the better known concertos. The early *Fantaisie-tableaux* (*Suite No.1*), composed when Rachmaninov was barely twenty, exhibits the influence of Chopin, Liszt and Tchaikovsky but is no mere bloodless imitation of their music. Written while Rachmaninov was working on his *Second Piano Concerto*, the *Suite No. 2* represents a maturer idiom. With its many references to earlier works, the *Symphonic Dances*, a virtual symphony in three movements and Rachmaninov's last major work, may be viewed as a retrospective of the composer's career. The version for two pianos is a convincing translation of the orchestral work on which he was working at the same time.

**Sergey  
RACHMANINOV**  
(1873-1943)

<b>Symphonic Dances, Op. 45</b>		<b>31:34</b>
1	I Non Allegro	11:02
2	II Andante con moto (Tempo di valse)	8:34
3	III Lento assai - Allegro vivace	11:57
<b>Fantaisie-tableaux (Suite No. 1), Op. 5</b>		<b>22:50</b>
4	I Barcarolle: Allegretto	8:15
5	II La nuit... l'amour: Adagio sostenuto	5:42
6	III Les larmes: Largo di molto	6:29
7	IV Pâques: Allegro maestoso	2:24
<b>Suite No. 2, Op. 17</b>		<b>22:27</b>
8	I Introduction: Alla marcia	4:09
9	II Valse: Presto	6:06
10	III Romance: Andantino	5:58
11	IV Tarantelle: Presto	6:14

**Peter Donohoe, Piano • Martin Roscoe, Piano**

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 Cover Painting: *A peasant dance in Little Russia* (1913) from Frederic de Haenen in 'Russia'  
 (Mary Evans Picture Library) • This recording was made and edited at 24-bit resolution

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Playing Time  
76:51



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