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ADD

SERGEY RACHMANINOV (1873-1943)

Solo Piano Recordings • 4

The Thomas A. Edison Inc. Recordings, April 1919

Playing Time
71:46

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Recorded in New York, 18 April 1919

1	Fryderyk Chopin: Waltz in A flat major, Op. 42	4:01
2	Fryderyk Chopin: Waltz in A flat major, Op. 42	3:52
3	Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: Sonata No. 9 in A major, K.331: I. Andante grazioso (Theme with six variations)	4:08
4	Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: Sonata No. 9 in A major, K.331: I. Andante grazioso (Theme with six variations)	4:09

Recorded in New York, 19 April 1919

5	Domenico Scarlatti, arr. Carl Tausig: Pastorale in E minor (arr. of K.9/L.413/P.65)	4:02
6	Domenico Scarlatti, arr. Carl Tausig: Pastorale in E minor (arr. of K.9/L.413/P.65)	3:57
7	Fryderyk Chopin: Waltz in A flat major, Op. 64, No. 3	2:50
8	Fryderyk Chopin: Waltz in A flat major, Op. 64, No. 3	2:45
9	Fryderyk Chopin: Waltz in A flat major, Op. 64, No. 3	2:49

Recorded in New York, 23 April 1919

10	Franz Liszt: Hungarian Rhapsody, No. 2 in C sharp minor, S.244/2 (cadenza by Sergey Rachmaninov)	10:35
11	Franz Liszt: Hungarian Rhapsody, No. 2 in C sharp minor, S.244/2 (cadenza by Sergey Rachmaninov)	10:27
12	Franz Liszt: Hungarian Rhapsody, No. 2 in C sharp minor, S.244/2 (cadenza by Sergey Rachmaninov)	10:32

Recorded in New York, 24 April 1919

13	Sergey Rachmaninov: Prelude in C sharp minor, Op. 3, No. 2	3:49
14	Sergey Rachmaninov: Prelude in C sharp minor, Op. 3, No. 2	3:51

A complete track list can be found inside the booklet

Rachmaninov was obliged to start a new life after abandoning all his possessions when leaving Russia for good in 1917. He sought his fortune in the New World, supporting his family as a pianist and giving numerous concerts. This activity generated interest from fledgling record companies, and before long Rachmaninov was working for Thomas Edison in his New York studio. These new transfers of 'approved' and 'held' takes made using the old acoustic process known as 'hill-and dale' reveal more about the instrument Rachmaninov played (probably a Lauter piano) than ever before, as well as opening out his robustly virtuosic approach to Chopin, the beautiful tone he gives to Mozart, and his breathtaking technique in Liszt's *Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2*, the longest solo work he ever recorded.

Producer and Audio Restoration Engineer: Ward Marston

Special thanks: Gerald Fabris (Museum Curator, Thomas Edison National Historical Park) for providing discographic information for these recordings and Gregor Benko and Lawrence F. Holdridge for loaning pristine discs from their collections

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Cover Photograph: Rachmaninov in New York, ca. 1923 [Private Collection]

