

DDD

Total Time: 71:32

**Theodor Fürchtegott
KIRCHNER**
(1823-1903)

8.225062

STEREO

**COMPACT
DISC**
DIGITAL AUDIO

8.225062

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KIRCHNER: Piano Music

1 Adagio quasi Fantasia, Op. 12 5:56

2-11 Nachtbilder:
Zehn Charakterstücke, Op. 25 (31:32)

12-16 Ideale, Op. 33 (10:49)

17-25 Legenden, Op. 18 (23:07)
Dichtungen für das Klavier
(Legends. Poems for the Piano)

Complete tracklist on page 8 of the booklet.

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The Composer

Now largely forgotten, Theodor Fürchtegott Kirchner enjoyed the admiration and support of Mendelssohn, Schumann, Brahms, Liszt, Wagner and Grieg. Already an accomplished organist at the age of 8, he became equally adept at the piano, for which he wrote more than 1,000 compositions. Despite his talent, skill and industry, he spent much of his life, according to Clara Schumann, in a dream world of his own. A man of extravagant habits, and addicted to gambling, he ended his days crippled and blind and would have died destitute but for the financial generosity of his friends.

The Music

Most of Kirchner's piano works were shortish character pieces, many of great charm and skill. His style remained essentially unchanged throughout his life, and owed much to the example of Schumann, showing a similar mastery of miniature forms and an impressive ability to capture the essence of a wide range of emotions and moods with remarkable vividness and economy. An excellent pianist himself, he wrote in a naturally flowing, deeply pianistic idiom which makes his posthumous neglect difficult to understand.

Recorded at Château Collart, Bettembourg, Luxembourg
from 20th to 24th April, 1998.

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Music Notes: Remy Franck

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