



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)

Symphonic Dances, Op. 45

31:34

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| 1 | I Non Allegro | 11:02 |
| 2 | II Andante con moto (Tempo di valse) | 8:34 |
| 3 | III Lento assai - Allegro vivace | 11:57 |

Fantaisie-tableaux (Suite No. 1), Op. 5

22:50

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| 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 |

Suite No. 2, Op. 17

22:27

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| 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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(Mary Evans Picture Library) • This recording was made and edited at 24-bit resolution