

Johann Nepomuk Hummel was considered one of Europe's finest pianist-composers and improvisers, much admired by his contemporaries including Beethoven and Liszt. His piano compositions were revolutionary and his book on piano-playing contains no fewer than 2,200 examples for all imaginable eventualities, with new fingerings and treatment of tone colours that were to influence later music. The *Fantasia, Op. 18* is nothing less than a grand sonata, which anticipates the works of Chopin, Schumann and Schubert, while the *Rondo quasi una fantasia in E major, Op. 19* suggests the musical language of Donizetti or Bellini, as well as late Rossini. The *Fantasia Op. 123* here receives its world première recording.

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**Johann Nepomuk
HUMMEL**
(1778-1837)

ORF

Fantasies

Fantasia in G minor, Op. 123*	12:16	10	Rondo quasi una fantasia in E major, Op. 19	8:24
1 Introduzione	1:12	11	'La contemplazione' in A flat major from Six Bagatelles, Op. 107	9:01
2 The Hunter's Song	2:21		Fantasia 'Recollections of Paganini'	9:48
3 Marcia	2:56	12	Caprice	3:23
4 The Bloodhound	2:45	13	Quartetto	3:05
5 The Roaming Mariners	3:03	14	Rondo	1:40
Fantasia in E flat major, Op. 18	23:24	15	Campanella	1:40
6 Lento - Allegro con fuoco	8:06	16	Fantasia in C major on 'Non più andrai', Op. 124	5:44
7 Larghetto e cantabile	8:37			
8 Allegro assai	4:26			
9 Presto	2:14			

Madoka Inui, Piano

*World première recording

Recorded at Studio 3, ORF Funkhaus, Vienna, from 26th to 28th July, 2005

Producer: Alfred Treiber, ORF • Recording supervisor: Matthias Fletzberger

Sound engineer: Wolfgang Fahrner • Editor: Otmar Bergsmann

Tuning: Gerald Stremnitzer (Bösendorfer) • Booklet notes: Heinz Sichrovsky

A co-production with ORF • Piano: Bösendorfer Imperial concert grand (2005)

Cover image: *The Granite Dish in the Pleasure Garden* by Johann E. Hummel (1769-1852)
(Private Collection / www.bridgeman.co.uk)

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