



Idil Biret

SOLO EDITION • 13

The two wonderful works that bookend Idil Biret's Schubert disc, composed just three years apart, might almost be said to represent two different Schuberts. Within tautly compressed formal lines, the "Wanderer" Fantasy achieves a monumentality that has rarely been surpassed or even approached in the solo piano medium. The A-major Sonata is written on a relatively modest scale, yet it must be said that in its own way it is just as masterly a creation as the larger Schubert works that were to follow. Laid out in three movements, it is full of the blandly melodious charm that non-Schubertians (if any such unfortunate persons still exist) usually dislike most about Schubert, but that for the happy majority forms an essential element in the personality of this most poetic of composers. At the same time, this beguiling quality is underpinned by an astonishing harmonic richness and formal subtlety... To a superficial ear, Schubert's "Wanderer" Fantasy sounds much more like a sonata than many an "official" sonata composed after his time. The paradox, however, is only apparent. When Schubert wrote his Fantasy it was, for all its Allegro-Adagio-Scherzo-Finale pattern, still too far from the traditional forms to be called a sonata. If thirty years later Liszt, for example, could with impunity fix the label on a work that has much less in common with conventional notions of sonata form, it was the "Wanderer" Fantasy itself that constituted the most crucial single step along the new path.

Bernard Jacobson

"Phenomenal memory, wonderful technique and unusual ability – these are the features of Idil Biret's music making which allow her to play works inaccessible to other pianists, even eminent ones. The range of her repertoire is truly astounding. It includes over 100 concertos. Idil Biret has already made more than seventy records...Over one million copies of her recordings have been sold worldwide and the prestigious awards for the artistic rendering of the works she recorded (Grand Prix du Disque Frederic Chopin in Poland, Golden Diapason in France) as well as the highest critical acclaim that she has received – all this causes the recordings of Idil Biret to always attract the most attention in the world of piano art...Idil Biret reaches in her art the levels of her great and unforgettable masters Wilhelm Kempff and Alfred Cortot."

Program notes of Duszynki Festival concert, Poland 1998

"Idil Biret is one of those exceptional artists who has earned the right to record anything that she wants to play. She has been one of the leading lights of the piano over the past 40 years, recording over seventy albums and performing with symphony orchestras all over Europe and America."

Patrick Gary Classical Music-Web, USA 2004

FRANZ SCHUBERT (1797-1828)

[1] - [3] Piano Sonata in A Major, D. 664 (Op. 120)	25:42
[4] - [6] Piano Sonata in F Minor, (unfinished) D. 625	24:16
[7] Impromptu in G flat major, D.899 (Op. 90 No. 3)	4:51
[8] Fantasy in C major, "Wanderer", D. 760, (Op. 15)	23:52

Recorded at Château de Flawinne, Belgium in July 2016 • Producer and engineer: Michel Devos • Remastering: Ozan Sarier
 Booklet notes: Bernard Jacobson • Cover photo: Idil Biret at Carnegie Hall in April 2016 by Sefik B. Yüksel
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DDD

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Playing time
78:41



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