



Idil Biret

ARCHIVE EDITION • 21

Idil Biret wanted to record the many waltz transcriptions of Godowsky and others. Chief among these was the transcription of the Johann Strauss' waltz *Künstlerleben* by Godowsky which she had performed at many concerts in the 1970s and the Blue Danube Waltz. However, there was another project scheduled before that; four Haydn Sonatas, some of the most beautiful among the many he composed. When Idil suddenly fell ill in 2021 both projects were abandoned. Then, miraculously a stupendous recording of her performance of *Künstlerleben* in New York in December 1975 surfaced on the internet which led to reembarking on the project in a somewhat different way. The result is this CD, a compilation of Biret's past performances of Waltzes and Dances from many composers including Bartok, Berlioz, Chopin, Debussy, Liszt, Ravel, Stravinsky and, of course, Leopold Godowsky – his piano transcription of the Strauss waltz *Künstlerleben* "Metamorphosis on Themes from Artist's Life"

"After the brilliant Liszt interpreter Lazar Berman, now another maestro of the piano with special affinity to Liszt, Idil Biret, made debut in the German Democratic Republic...The jubilant public found itself rewarded with an encore which in itself was even more complex: a *Tarantella* by Liszt, performed with extreme purity and enormously dynamic staging."
Berliner Zeitung (GDR 1979)

"Biret's performances of two Kreisler transcriptions (old Viennese dances) by Rachmaninov are nostalgic and brilliant."
CD Review (UK 1992)

"A lovely account is given by Idil Biret of the less-typically Debussian *La plus que lente* with its popular sounding waltz theme. It is played with charm and a backward glance to nineteenth century café life in Budapest, where the composer was inspired to write this piece."
Musicweb-International (USA 2020)

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|--------------------|--|------|---|-------|
| [1] Chopin | <i>Tarantelle</i> | 3:10 | [2] Berlioz/Liszt <i>A Ball</i> (from <i>Symph. Fantastique</i>) | 6:10 |
| [3] Liszt | <i>Tarantella</i> (from <i>Venezia et Napoli</i>) | 8:45 | [4] Ravel <i>La valse</i> | 13:36 |
| [5] Debussy | <i>La plus que lente</i> | 4:02 | [6] Rachmaninov/Kreisler <i>Liebesleid</i> | 5:05 |
| [7]-[8] Stravinsky | <i>Valse pour les enfants</i> | 1:07 | <i>Danse Russe</i> (from <i>Petrouchka</i>) | 2:46 |
| [9]-[10] Bartok | <i>6 Roumanian Folk Dances</i> | 4:27 | <i>6 Dances in Bulgarian Rhythm</i> | 8:35 |
| [11] Mimaroglu | <i>Pieces Sentimentales</i> | 8:30 | [12] Strauss/Godowsky <i>Künstlerleben</i> | 13:30 |

Recorded in Belgium, France, Germany, Turkey, USA between 1961- 2018 (1. 1990s, 2. 1979, 3. 2011, 4. 1987, 5. 2018, 6. 1990s, 7-8. 1976, 9-10 1961, 11. 1975, 12. 1975) • Compilation and mastering: Ozan Sarier •
Cover photo: Idil Biret during a recording session in New York by Sami Uçkan, 1972 • Graphic design: Özcan Göksan •
Concept, booklet text preparation: Sefik B. Yüksel



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AAD DDD

8.571428

Playing time
79:39



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