

Encouraged by Brahms and Dvořák while embracing the innovative influences of Debussy, Mahler and Richard Strauss, Josef Suk ranked among the most important composers of the Romantic Czech school. Suk's *Fantasy* carries the listener into the realms of reverie with its virtuosic solo violin and rich orchestration. The magical story of the romance of a dashing young prince, Radúz, who desires the hand of princess Mahulena from a rival mountain kingdom, lies behind Suk's luxuriantly orchestrated suite *Fairy Tale*. The *Fantastic Scherzo* is one of his most evocative works, with a haunting Czech tune on middle strings and cellos that lingers long in the heart.

Josef
SUK
(1874-1935)

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|---|--------------|
| 1 Fantasy in G minor, Op. 24* | 23:28 |
| Pohádka (Fairy Tale), Op. 16 | 30:39 |
| 2 I. O věrném milování Radúze a Mahuleny
a jejich strastech (About the constant love
of Radúz and Mahulena and their trials) | 11:07 |
| 3 II. Intermezzo: Hra na labutě a pávy
(Folk Dance: The game of swans and peacocks) | 3:25 |
| 4 III. Intermezzo: Smuteční hudba (Funeral Music) | 7:27 |
| 5 IV. Runy kletba a jak byla láskou zrušena
(Runa's curse and how it was overcome by true love) | 8:40 |
| 6 Fantastické scherzo, Op. 25 | 15:06 |

Michael Ludwig, Violin*

Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra • JoAnn Falletta

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Playing Time
69:13



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