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8.573628

Playing Time
72:27

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A celebrated student of Beethoven, virtuoso pianist Ferdinand Ries established an innovative technical approach to the interpretation of the fortepiano. The decade he spent in London (1813-24) was his most successful. The majority of the variation sets, fantasies and rondos on this recording were composed then. The emergence of the new square pianos created a hunger for domestic music-making and Ries responded with catchy variations on popular themes and technically challenging fantasias that gave full rein to his musical imagination. They add another dimension to the appreciation of the man Robert Schumann praised for his ‘remarkable originality’.

Ferdinand RIES

(1784-1838)

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| 1 | Variations in F major on a Beloved French Song
‘La Sentinelle’, Op. 105, No. 1* | 10:33 |
| 2 | Fantasy in E flat major ‘The Dream’, Op. 49 | 18:04 |
| 3 | Variations in C major on a Favourite Scotch Air
‘The Old Highland Laddie’, Op. 105, No. 2* | 6:50 |
| 4 | Fantasy in A flat major on Schiller’s Poem
‘Resignation’, Op. 109 | 18:33 |
| 5 | Variations in A minor on a Cossack Song, Op. 40, No. 1* | 9:36 |
| 6 | Introduction and Rondo in E flat major
‘à la Zingaresco’, Op. 184* | 8:50 |

*WORLD PREMIÈRE RECORDINGS

Michael Tsalka, Fortepiano

Recorded at The Schubert Club, St Paul, Minnesota, USA, on 1st and 2nd August, 2014
Producer: Michael Tsalka • Engineer: John Scherf • Editors: John Scherf and Michael Tsalka
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(St Paul, Minnesota) and The Anderson Center (Red Wing, Minnesota)

Booklet notes: Michael Tsalka and Angélica Mineró Escobar

Cover painting: *Westminster Bridge and Abbey* by William Daniell (1769-1837)