

Anton Rubinstein occupied an uneasy place in the history of Russian music, largely because of his Jewish origins and the perception of him as a 'German in Russia'. In recent years his solo piano music has begun to be re-evaluated. This album focuses on the series of works written in the mid-1850s and reveals music of charm and flair. The *Three Pieces*, Op. 16 are conventional in form but attractive, and the *Two Pieces*, Op. 28 contain a strongly contrasted *Nocturne* and *Caprice*. More ambitious, and intended to be performed in his concert repertoire as one of the greatest virtuosos of the age, are the *Six Pieces*, Op. 51.

Anton
RUBINSTEIN
(1829–1894)

Piano Music

Three Pieces, Op. 16

(1855)

- 1 No. 1. Impromptu
- 2 No. 2. Berceuse
- 3 No. 3. Serenade

Three Caprices, Op. 21

(1855)

- 4 No. 1. Allegretto scherzando
- 5 No. 2. Allegro
- 6 No. 3. Allegro risoluto –
Andante – Tempo I

Two Pieces, Op. 28 (1856) 13:19

15:51	7 No 1. Nocturne	5:19
4:09	8 No 2. Caprice	7:58

5:27	Six Pieces, Op. 51 (1857) 30:08	
6:14	9 No. 1. Mélancolie	5:35

13:02	10 No. 2. Enjouement	5:06
2:39	11 No. 3. Rêverie	5:53
5:39	12 No. 4. Caprice	3:23
	13 No. 5. Passion	5:29
4:43	14 No. 6. Coquetterie	4:36

Sergio Gallo, Piano

Recorded: 13 December 2021 at Hahn Hall, Music Academy of the West, Santa Barbara, California, USA
Producer, engineer and editor: Barbara Hirsch (Opus 1 mobile recording) • Mastering: Ben Maas
Booklet notes: Keith Anderson • Cover: *Anton Rubinstein* by Ilya Repin (1844–1930)

NAXOS

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Playing Time
72:20



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Booklet notes in English