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8.574506

Playing Time
78:24

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Imre Széchényi was a distinguished diplomat who rose to become the Austro-Hungarian ambassador to Berlin, retaining the friendship and admiration of a gallery of leading figures of the age: Liszt, Johann Strauss II, Suppé, Waldteufel, Bismarck, and many others. He was also a pianist and composer, and his diplomatic career ran parallel to his musical life. Széchényi's métier was the dance, and his series of polkas, mazurkas and serenades – infectiously engaging and ardently lyrical – were popular pieces in their day but are now little known. Orchestrations of many of these dances were made by the composer (Naxos 8.573807) but five that were never scored for orchestra are included here.

Imre SZÉCHÉNYI

(1825–1898)

1 Wiesbaden-Polka	2:58	12 Polka-Mazurka in A minor	4:30
2 Herbst-Polka	4:06	13 Serenade in A minor	
		for piano 4 hands	3:07
3 La Brigantine Polka-Mazurka	4:06	14 La Tulipe Mazurka	2:02
4 Bliktri-Polka	3:21	15 La Neige (Schnee) Polka	2:52
5 Datscha-Polka (Дача)	3:15	16 Les Vagues Polka-Mazurka	5:01
6 Valdine Polka-Mazurka	3:48	17 Une polka prétentieuse	4:01
7 Zither-Polka	3:23	18 Felicetta-Polka	2:52
8 Velloni-Polka	2:35	19 L'Éventail Polka-Mazurka	6:51
9 La Marguerite Mazurka	4:17	20 Georginen-Polka	3:01
10 Leopoldinen-Polka	3:01	21 Pretchistinka-Polka	2:43
11 Tommy-Polka	2:04	22 Le Caprice-Polka	3:51

WORLD PREMIERE RECORDINGS

György Lázár 1–3 7–9 13 15 16 20 22,
István Kassai 4–6 10–14 17–19 21, Piano

Recorded: 12 4 6 10–12, 13 5 14 17–19 21, 19 1 7 9 16 20 and 20 2 3 8 13 15 22 February 2022
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