

Alexander Goldenweiser (1875–1961) is remembered as a major pianist, one of the founders of the Russian school of playing, and a friend of Rachmaninov, Scriabin and Tolstoy. He was also a prolific composer but rarely played his own works in public. His *Contrapuntal Sketches*, written in the early 1930s, are probably the first Russian cycle of polyphonic pieces encompassing all the major and minor keys; they fuse Goldenweiser's compositional and pianistic virtuosity with an empathy for Russian folksong. The *Sonata-Fantasia* presents other, contrasting facets of his complex personality: although demonstrating his link to the Russian Romantics, it is resolutely modern and original. Jonathan Powell studied with one of Goldenweiser's students, Sulamita Aronovsky.

MIT DEUTSCHEM KOMMENTAR ~ NOTES EN FRANÇAIS

GOLDENWEISER Piano Music, Volume One

1	<i>Skazka</i> , Op. 39	7:18	
2	<i>Sonata-Fantasia</i> , Op. 37	12:36	
3	<i>Contrapuntal Sketches</i> , Op. 12	58:30	TT 78:24

Jonathan Powell, piano

FIRST RECORDINGS

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