

Karol Rathaus (1895–1954), born on the eastern fringes of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, was one of the myriad Jewish composers who had to abandon a successful career in Europe, where he wrote for stage, screen and concert hall, and flee to the USA; there he earned his living in academia, working in obscurity. This first recording of his piano music reveals a powerful and individual voice, where echoes of his distant homeland colour a musical language that is striking for its harmonic tension and rhythmic energy.



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KAROL RATHAUS Piano Music, Volume One

Fünf Klavierstücke, Op. 9 (1924)

- 1 I *Andante*
- 2 II *Allegro*
- 3 III *Andante*
- 4 IV *Durchaus gemächlich*
- 5 V *Presto*

Piano Sonata No. 2, Op. 8

(1924; rev. 1927)

- 6 I *Allegro energico*
- 7 II *Presto (rubato)*
- 8 III *Andante con moto*

Trois Mazurkas, Op. 24 (1928)

- 9 I *Im Rhythmus einer Mazurka*
- 10 II *Schnell, etwas flüchtig*
- 11 III *Allegro vivace*

23:44

- 4:19
- 3:57
- 4:07
- 5:32
- 5:49

21:02

- 7:43
- 8:01
- 5:18
- 9:10
- 3:19
- 3:33
- 2:18

Zwei Stücke aus dem Ballet

- 'Der letzte Pierrot' (1926, arr. 1927) 7:22
- 12 I *Valse sentimentale* 2:36
- 13 II *Tanz der Arbeiter* ('Workers' Dance') 4:46

Three Excerpts from the Film Music for *Der Mörder Dimitri Karamazov* ('The Murderer Dimitri Karamazov'; 1931)

- 14 Lied der Gruschenka ('Gruschenka's Song') 2:16
- 15 Lied vom weissen Schwann ('Song of the White Swan') 1:57
- 16 Bei den Zigeunern ('With the Gypsies') 1:58

TT 67:33

Daniel Wnukowski, piano

FIRST RECORDINGS

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