Encouraged by Brahms and Dvořák while embracing the innovative influences of Debussy, Mahler and Richard Strauss, Josef Suk ranked among the most important composers of the Romantic Czech school. Suk’s *Fantasy* carries the listener into the realms of reverie with its virtuosic solo violin and rich orchestration. The magical story of the romance of a dashing young prince, Radúz, who desires the hand of princess Mahulena from a rival mountain kingdom, lies behind Suk’s luxuriantly orchestrated suite *Fairy Tale*. The *Fantastic Scherzo* is one of his most evocative works, with a haunting Czech tune on middle strings and cellos that lingers long in the heart.

### Josef Suk (1874-1935)

1. **Fantasy in G minor, Op. 24***
   - Pohádka (Fairy Tale), Op. 16
   - 23:28
   - 30:39

2. **I. O věrném milování Radúze a Mahuleny
   a jejich strastech** (About the constant love of Radúz and Mahulena and their trials)
   - 11:07

3. **II. Intermezzo: Hra na labuť a pávy**
   (Folk Dance: The game of swans and peacocks)
   - 3:25

4. **III. Intermezzo: Smuteční hudba** (Funeral Music)
   - 7:27

5. **IV. Runy kletba a jak byla láskou zrušena**
   (Runa’s curse and how it was overcome by true love)
   - 8:40

6. **Fantastické scherzo, Op. 25***
   - 15:06

**Michael Ludwig, Violin***

**Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra • JoAnn Falletta**

Recorded at Kleinhans Music Hall, Buffalo, New York, USA, on 3rd and 4th May, 2010

Produced, engineered and edited by Tim Handley

Publishers: Kalmus reprint of N. Simrock (tracks 1-5); Lucks reprint of Serenissima (track 6)

Cover photograph by Nataliya Lukhanina (Dreamstime.com)