A celebrated student of Beethoven, virtuoso pianist Ferdinand Ries established an innovative technical approach to the interpretation of the fortepiano. The decade he spent in London (1813-24) was his most successful. The majority of the variation sets, fantasies and rondos on this recording were composed then. The emergence of the new square pianos created a hunger for domestic music-making and Ries responded with catchy variations on popular themes and technically challenging fantasias that gave full rein to his musical imagination. They add another dimension to the appreciation of the man Robert Schumann praised for his ‘remarkable originality’.

Ferdinand RIES (1784-1838)


*WORLD PREMIÈRE RECORDINGS

Michael Tsalka, Fortepiano

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Cover painting: Westminster Bridge and Abbey by William Daniell (1769-1837)