



9.70187

DDD

Playing Time
65:00

© & © 2013 Naxos Rights US, Inc.
Booklet notes in English
Made in Hong Kong
www.naxos.com

Peter Ritzen is part of a long composer–pianist tradition, and his artistry is already represented in fine recordings of his own and César Franck's *Piano Quintets* on Naxos 9.70142, as well as his *Piano Concerto 'The Last Empress'* (8.223969) and *Chinese Requiem* (8.223980). Ritzen surprises and delights audiences with improvised encores after his performances, and here he brings his trademark gift to the recording studio. This is a fascinating series of pieces which explores the sonorities and colours of the piano, reflecting Ritzen's deep affinity with China, with lyrical expression and rich orchestral textures, and with composers such as Scriabin, Franck and Rachmaninov.

Peter
RITZEN
(b. 1956)

The Art of Improvisation

Free Improvisations for Piano

- | | | |
|---|-------------------|-------|
| 1 | Transfiguration | 6:51 |
| 2 | Metafora | 5:26 |
| 3 | Notturmo | 7:36 |
| 4 | China Bells | 5:56 |
| 5 | Passion | 6:05 |
| 6 | For China | 14:47 |
| 7 | Nostalgico | 5:22 |
| 8 | Poème-Tableaux | 6:44 |
| 9 | Arpeggi di Sonoro | 5:25 |

Peter Ritzen, Piano

Recorded at the Museo Cristofori, Gahberg Weyeregg am Attersee, Austria, February 1993
Producer: Stella Chang, Renaissance Music Society New York–Beijing • Engineer: Georg O. Luksch

Booklet notes: Nicholas Ward • Piano: Steinway C

Cover photo of Peter Ritzen by Chang Ko-Pin, courtesy of the photographer