Ferdinand Ries – Variations Fantasies and a Rondo (2014)



1. Variations in F major on a Beloved French Song "La Sentinelle", op.105 No.1 2. Fantasy in E flat major "The Dream", op.49 3. Variations in C major on a Favourite Scotch Air "The Old Highland Laddie", op.105 No.2 4. Fantasy in A flat major on Schiller's Poem "Resignation", op.109 5. Variations in A minor on a Cossack Song, op.40 No.1 6. Introduction and Rondo in E flat major à la Zingaresco, op.184 Michael Tsalka – piano Rec.: The Schubert Club, St. Paul, Minnesota, USA; 1-2.VIII.2014.

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'. --- naxos.com

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