

## Franz Schubert - Impromptus Moments Musicaux (Brendel) [1997]

Written by bluesever

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## Franz Schubert - Impromptus Moments Musicaux (Brendel) [1997]



CD 1 [1.12'43"] Impromptus, op. 90, D. 899 01 No. 1 in C minor - c-moll - en ut mineur 9'20" 02 No. 2 in E flat - Es-dur - en mi bémol majeur 4'32" 03 No. 3 in G flat - Ges-dur - en sol bémol majeur 5'48" 04 No. 4 in A flat - As-dur - en la bémol majeur 7'38"  
Impromptus, op. posth. 142, D. 935  
05 No. 1 in F minor - f-moll - en fa mineur 11'06" 06 No. 2 in A flat - As-dur - en la bémol majeur 5'44" 07 No. 3 in B flat - B-dur - en si bémol majeur 11'51" 08 No. 4 in F minor - f-moll - en fa mineur 5'27" 09 16 German Dances, op. 33, D. 783 10'42" Deutsche Tänze - Danses allemandes  
CD 2 [1.02'17"] 3 Klavierstücke (Impromptus), D. 946  
01 No. 1 in E flat minor - es-moll - en mi bémol mineur 8'57" 02 No. 2 in E flat - Es-dur - en mi bémol majeur 9'32" 03 No. 3 in C - C-dur - en ut majeur 4'59"  
6 Moments musicaux, op. 94, D. 780  
04 No. 1 in C - Moderato - C-dur - en ut majeur 5'09" 05 No. 2 in A flat - Andantino - As-dur 6'28" en la bémol majeur 06 No. 3 in F minor - Allegro moderato - f-moll 1'40" en fa mineur 07 No. 4 in C sharp minor - Moderato - cis-moll 5'19" en ut dièse mineur 08 No. 5 in F minor - Allegro vivace - f-moll 2'08" en fa mineur 09 No. 6 in A flat - Allegretto - As-dur 7'05" en la bémol majeur 10 12 German Dances, op. posth. 171, D. 790 10'35" Deutsche Tänze - Danses allemandes  
Alfred Brendel - piano – Klavier

Even at the peak of his early super-virtuoso period, Austrian pianist Alfred Brendel had a soft spot for Schubert. While his Pictures at the Exhibition was breathtaking and his Beethoven sonatas were awe-inspiring, it was his Schubert that let listeners know Brendel had a heart. Recorded in Vienna for Vox in 1967, these performances of both groups of Impromptus, the four great D. 899 set and the four even greater D. 935 set, plus the last four of the Six Moments Musicaux, D. 780, are Brendel at his most persuasively poetic. This is not to say that virtuosity is absent from his playing. The clarity of his right-hand arabesques, the precision of his left-hand octaves, and the ideal balance between his hands amply demonstrate Brendel's keyboard prowess. But it is the soulfulness of Brendel's playing that is most impressive, the way he

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shapes a phrase, finesses a dynamic, or inflects a rhythm so that the maximum expressive meaning of the music is made manifest. While some listeners might still favor the venerable Schnabel and Fischer recordings or the later Perahia or Schiff recordings, for fans of the music and of the pianist, this disc deserves to be heard. Vox's stereo sound is a bit hard and a little close, but clear and honest. ---James Leonard, Rovi

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