



Romantic Music for Cello and Piano

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A summer's day is good for listening to this kind of romantic music. Albert Dietrich (1829-1908) was the composer who contributed the first movement of the FAE Violin Sonata that Brahms and Schumann also helped with. He had a fine lyrical gift, judging by this 27-minute Cello Sonata, though he isn't as compellingly memorable as his two friends. I wonder how he and his older contemporary, Theodor Kirchner (1823-1903) felt when young Brahms (b. 1833) died in 1897? It is nice to couple these good but not great composers with short works by Schumann and Brahms that complement them without forcing a comparison. The Brahms intermezzos are played in transcriptions by Paul Klengel (1854-1935), violinist brother of Julius Klengel, the famous cellist. It is Paul who transcribed the First Violin Sonata of Brahms into a cello sonata, and he is responsible for numerous similar rearrangements of Brahms's works. The Opus 116:4 and Opus 117:1 are sensitively handled. Kirchner's Eight Pieces are imaginative and harmonically inventive. All of this is played with warmth and sensitivity by these Munich-based musicians and recorded naturally.