



Press Info:

RICHARD FRANCK

(1858-1938)

Piano Quartets & Fantasies

Piano Quartets

• **A major, Op. 33**

• **E major, Op. 41**

Fantasies Op. 28

Christoph Schickedanz, violin

Marius Nichiteanu, viola

Mathias Beyer-Karlshoj, violoncello

Bernhard Fograscher, piano

“finely-tuned echoes of late Romanticism at its noblest”
(Otto Dorn in *Die Musik*, 1904/05)

This SACD is a further addition to audite's successful series of music by **Eduard and Richard Franck – father and son**. Like his father, Eduard, Richard Franck (1858-1938), one of the last representatives of late Romanticism, won a reputation as a fine pianist. In 1907 the *Basler Nationalzeitung* commented: “His outstanding quality is the art of making the piano sing; he is by turns tender and soft, warm and full of life.” But this former pupil of Reinecke also enjoyed a high reputation as a composer of chamber music and piano pieces. A contemporary reviewer in the *Casseler Allgemeine Zeitung* wrote in 1905: “The recital ended with the Piano Quartet in E, Op. 41 [...]. Here again all the familiar qualities of Franck's writing were in evidence: glorious melodies, unaffectedly natural harmony, rich invention and beautiful voice-leading, all combined with rhythmic verve and vitality.”

Richard Franck's **Fantasia for Pianoforte Op. 28** and the **Piano Quartets Op. 33** and **Op. 41** were written when Franck was at the height of his powers. The music captivates the listener with its sophisticated treatment of the musical material and the effective interaction of the four instruments. The recording pays close attention to detail while at the same time being both spacious and well-balanced.

Christoph Schickedanz (violin) and **Bernhard Fograscher** (piano) are already familiar from earlier recordings of music by Franck. Here this duo is expanded to include their teaching colleague from Hamburg, **Marius Nichiteanu** (viola) and **Mathias Beyer-Karlshoj** (violoncello), the cellist of the Henschel Quartet.

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Already issued by audite:

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- R. Franck: Works for Violoncello and Piano (aud. 20031)
- R. Franck: Works for Violin and Piano (aud. 92.515 SACD)
- E. Franck / R. Franck / C. Reinecke:
Works for Violoncello and Piano (aud. 20.021)
- E. Franck: Orchestral Works Vol. 1 (aud. 20.025)
- E. Franck: Orchestral Works Vol. 2 (aud. 20.034)
- E. Franck: String Quartet and Piano Quintet (aud. 20.033)
- E. Franck: String Quartets (aud. 20.032)
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