

PLAYS ON ALL CD- AND SACD- PLAYERS!



Press Info:

MAURICE RAVEL

(1817-1893)

PIANO WORKS

Valses nobles et sentimentales

Gaspard de la Nuit

Sonatine

La Valse

Romain Descharmes, piano

If one were to visualise the history of piano music as a mountainous landscape, the oeuvre of Maurice Ravel would without doubt form a peak within this panorama. It is a Massif Central of its own for the pianistic “mountaineer”. The profile, the seductive attraction and the perfdies of these works have long been known, and it is not only within French pianism that they belong to the canon of 20th century piano music. However, Ravel’s artificial, indirect soundscape challenges the interpreter to extreme levels, demanding virtuosity, a sense of sound and sensitivity. The works recorded for this CD by the young French pianist Romain Descharmes present the quintessence of Ravel’s oeuvre for piano: from the classicist *Sonatine* via the fantastical world of *Gaspard de la Nuit* – a milestone in virtuosity in the entire history of piano music – and the ingenious waltz-paraphrases of the *Valses Nobles et Sentimentales*, to the rarely performed transcription of the world-famous orchestral work *La Valse* for solo piano. Descharmes’ realisation of the piece and his performance, confidently combining risk and control, impressively reveal what powers can be unleashed in the piano version of *La Valse* – but also how obsession and tragedy permeate Ravel’s music and require each other.

Romain Descharmes was awarded First Prize in the Dublin International Piano Competition in 2006, leading him to perform recitals on many prestigious international stages. Furthermore he has been awarded prizes also at other international competitions. Romain Descharmes studied at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique in Paris with Jacques Rouvier, Christian Ivaldi, Jean Koerner and Anne Grappotte. Frequently he gives recitals in his home country France and abroad. In addition to his solo career Romain Descharmes is a much sought-after chamber musician.

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