



Press Info:

PAS DE DEUX
French Music for Piano Duo

D. Milhaud: Scaramouche
M. Ravel: Rapsodie espagnole
G. Bizet: Jeux d'enfants op. 22
F. Poulenc: Sonata for two Pianos & Élégie

Piano Duo
Mona & Rica Bard

Winners of a number of awards, the sisters Mona and Rica Bard now present their first CD, a pas de deux though eighty years of French piano music. At one and at two instruments, they create a panorama of piano sound, ranging from the simulation of orchestral colours, percussive and motoric élan to the suggestion of an intensive song-like quality. With Bizet's *Jeux d'enfants*, Ravel's *Rapsodie espagnole* and Poulenc's *Sonata for Two Pianos*, this SACD contains three „secret“ masterworks by their respective composers. With its combination of elegance, irony and samba rhythms, the *Scaramouche Suite* quickly became Darius Milhaud's most popular work.



Four hands, two sisters, one pulse – **Mona & Rica Bard** achieved national and international awards at competitions among them the German Music Competition, the *Concorso Internazionale di Musica da Camera Palma d'Oro* (Finale Ligure) and the *Concorso Internazionale per Duo Pianistico Twenty Fingers* (Rome). The Ensemble was accepted in the National Selection of Young Artists' Concerts of the German Music Council and in the artists' list of the association *Yehudi Menuhin – Live Music Now*. Extensive concert engagements have taken Mona & Rica Bard throughout Europe, to Asia the USA and to numerous festivals such as the Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Festival, the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival, the NCPA May Festival Peking and the Chicago Piano Duo Festival.

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