



American Recital

LOUIS MOREAU GOTTSCHALK

Pasquinade (Caprice), Op. 59

Ricordati, Op. 26

The Last Hope (Méditation Religieuse), Op. 16

Berceuse (Cradle Song), Op. 47

The Banjo (Fantaisie Grotesque), Op. 15

GEORGE GERSHWIN

Three Preludes

PHILIP GLASS

'Opening Piece' from 'Glassworks'

FREDERIC RZEWSKI

Piano Piece No. 4 (1977)

SAMUEL BARBER

Nocturne, Op. 33 'Homage to John Field'

Sonata for Piano, Op. 26

Ulrich Roman Murtfeld, piano

This SACD with compositions by Louis Moreau Gottschalk, George Gershwin, Samuel Barber, Frederic Rzewski and Philip Glass presents a cross-section of North American piano music from 1850 to 1980. It offers the listener the possibility to become immersed in a fascinating musical cosmos which is, above all, notable for its stylistic variety. This is characteristic of American music's search for its identity from the very beginning of its history: a lack of historical references is replaced by a plethora of ethnic-social phenomena and the principle of permanent cultural exchange. Gottschalk became an early pioneer of the „crossover“ and Gershwin merged jazz and art music to form a unique entity. With his monumental Piano Sonata and the Nocturne, Samuel Barber delivered brilliant examples of a tonally and formally conservative yet powerful and compellingly individual language. In contrast, Philip Glass and Frederic Rzewski represent contemporary positions, with the extremes of minimalism and avant-gardism, of an advanced American modernism that nonetheless continues to aim towards general comprehensibility.



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