



NICOLAS VAN POUCKE Chopin

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NIGHT DREAMER

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DESCRIPTION

Following up on his Night Dreamer debut, accomplished pianist **Nicolas van Poucke** returns with a recording of the works of **Chopin**. Originally entering the studio with the intention of recording the Chopin pieces, van Poucke's technical skill and emotional depth resulted in producing two direct-to-disc recordings, the other being a **Beethoven** record released in 2022 on Night Dreamer. Although an unusual method of recording for this style of music, the one-take process was met by van Poucke head-on, balancing the fine lines of emotion and detail, and following in the footsteps of the greats who once recorded in this way. Van Poucke says: "[Chopin]'s music has long held a special place in my heart and remains central to my repertoire. A towering figure in the history of piano music, Chopin's genius has left an indelible mark on the world of pianism. His *Etudes Opus 10* were a seminal moment in the development of the art of the piano and are studied by every serious pianist at some point in their development. This new album features a selection of Chopin's works that showcase his mastery in various forms... [H]is skills as a master of the small form are evident in such pieces as the haunting *Nocturne Opus 32 No. 1*, four *Mazurkas Opus 33*, the mysterious and harmonically daring *Prelude Opus 45*, and three *Waltzes Opus 64*, including the celebrated 'Minute' Waltz, the equally renowned 'Waltz' in C-sharp minor, and my personal favorite, the 'Waltz' in A-flat major." The album also features two of Chopin's larger works, the *Polonaise in F-sharp minor Opus 44*, a dark and volatile composition that stands as one of his most energetic pieces. Its bold and defiant main theme, as **Franz Liszt** once noted, is like 'the repeated roar of artillery, as if we caught the sounds from some dread battle waging in the distance'... A charming and innocent idyllic *Mazurka* is inserted in the middle of the piece, infused with the sweet perfume of lavender and marjoram... The other larger work on the album is the *Ballade in G minor Opus 23*, a composition that I deeply adore for its narrative power and dramatic sweep. As the final piece on the album, it is a fitting and dramatic conclusion to this collection of Chopin's works."

TRACKLISTING

A1. Prelude In C-Sharp Minor, Opus 45 Polonaise In F-Sharp, Opus 44
B1. Nocturne In B Major, Opus 32 No. 1 Four Mazurkas Opus 33
C1. Three Waltzes Opus 64
D1. Ballade No. 1 In G Minor, Opus 23

HIGHLIGHTS

- Accomplished pianist **Nicolas van Poucke** returns with a recording of the works of **Chopin**.
- This new album features a selection of Chopin's works that showcase his mastery in various forms.
- The one-take recording process was met by van Poucke head-on, balancing the fine lines of emotion and detail, and following in the footsteps of the greats who once recorded in this way.

Also available:

(ND 011LP) VAN POUCKE, NICOLAS: *In The Moment* LP [764460006254]

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