

international Piano

Critic's choice



Commemorating a decade since the death of the American pianist Earl Wild, this is a beautifully recorded recital of Wild's transcriptions. The piano used is a Bechstein D282 from the Fabbrini Collection .

Forte offers a superb, suave rendition of Handel-Wild's *Harmonious Blacksmith Variations*. Although exactly the same duration as Giovanni Doria Miglietta's performance on Piano Classics, Forte is lighter and fully honours the virtuoso element.

The Adagio from Marcello's Oboe Concerto is an absolute dream, preparing the ground beautifully for a caressing performance of Rachmaninov's *Dream*. Wild meets Rachmaninov might imply a supernova of virtuosity, but here is a plateau of highest beauty. Each Rachmaninov-Wild transcription is a gem, or at least Forte persuades us so in his ideally contrasted selection.

There is wit to the Tchaikovsky *Dance of the Four Swans* and swing to Gershwin's *Virtuoso Etudes*, including a nod to Rachmaninov in 'The Man I Love'. The final track recalls Forte's previous album of CPE Bach, but here it is CPE transcribed by Forte – the composer's famous *Solfeggietto*, now *Solfeggietto in the Form of an Improvisation*.

Fabulously recorded at Odradek's studio in Pescara near Venice, this is a real treat.