

Royal Philharmonic Orchestra A JOURNEY Calm Romantic Piano Music

Peter BREINER A JOURNEY Calm Romantic Piano Music • 2

Peter BREINER (b. 1957)

1	The Magic Goblet	20
2	Johann Sebastian BACH (1685–1750) The Well-Tempered Clavier, Book 1 – Prelude No. 1 in C major, BWV 846 *	47
3 4 5	Peter BREINER We Reached This Far Snowfall Song Mama, Can You See Me? 3:5	06
6	Gabriel FAURÉ (1845–1924) Pavane, Op. 50 *	49
7 8 9 10 11 12	Peter BREINER 2:5 Come and Tell Me 2:5 King of Hyperboles 3:3 The Final Song 3:3 That's the Way She Is 3:4 Where to Go, Where to Be? 2:5 Just a Tiny Waltz 2:5	36 35 40 59
13	Antonín DVOŘÁK (1841–1904) Symphony No. 9 in E minor, Op. 95, B. 178 'From the New World' – II. Largo *	59
_	Peter BREINER	

14	Sunday Morning on Sunday	.5:09
----	--------------------------	-------

15	George Frideric HANDEL (1685–1759) Rinaldo, HWV 7 – Act II: Lascia ch'io pianga *						
16	Pyotr Il'yich TCHAIKOVSKY (1840–1893) The Seasons, Op. 37b – X. October: Autumn Song *						
17	Franz Joseph HAYDN (1732–1809) Keyboard Concerto in D major, Hob.XVIII:11 – II. Un poco adagio * 5:53						
18 19	Peter BREINER Good Old Times						
20	Pyotr II'yich TCHAIKOVSKY 6 Romances, Op. 6 – No. 6. None but the lonely heart *						
21	George Frideric HANDEL Dank sei Dir, Herr *						
22	TRADITIONAL Greensleeves *						
23	Johann Sebastian BACH Keyboard Concerto in F minor, BWV 1056 – II. Largo *						
	Total time: 86:01						
* arranged by Peter Breiner							
WORLD PREMIERE RECORDINGS							

Emer McDonough, Flute 2

Royal Philharmonic Orchestra Peter Breiner, Piano and Conductor

Recorded: 19-20 September 2020 at Henry Wood Hall, London, UK Producer and editor: Andrew Walton (K&A Productions Ltd) • Sound engineer: Deborah Spanton (K&A Productions) Booklet notes: Peter Breiner • Editions: composer's manuscript

PETER BREINER (b. 1957) A JOURNEY Calm Romantic Piano Music • 2

Peter Breiner is one of the world's most recorded musicians with over 200 releases and more than two million albums sold. A conductor, pianist, arranger and composer, he has conducted, often doubling as a pianist, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, Vienna Mozart Orchestra, Hurgarian State Radio Orchestra, Nicolaus Esterházy Sinfonia, Polish Radio Symphony Orchestra, Ukrainian State Symphony Orchestra, Moscow Symphony Orchestra, Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra, Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra, Capella Istropolitana, Queensland Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra and the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, among many others.

Some of his most acclaimed recordings include Beatles Go Baroque (8.555010 – over a quarter of a million albums sold worldwide) and Elvis Goes Baroque (8.990054) which, together with Christmas Goes Baroque I and II (8.550301 and 8.550670) represent his commercially most successful Baroque arrangements.

His arrangements of national anthems of all participating countries were used during the Olympic Games in Athens in 2004. A new ten-disc set of the *National Anthems of the World* was written to coincide with the 2012 Olympic Games in London and was released in July 2013 by Naxos (8.201001).

The world premiere recording for Naxos of Breiner's own arrangements of Janáček's six *Opera Suites* (8.570555 and 8.570556) with him conducting the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra earned tremendous acclaim, *Gramophone* declaring it a 'splendid disc ... conducted with passion and sympathetic understanding'. The *Chicago Tribune* added: 'Breiner fills the void with beautifully crafted symphonic suites based on the music of *Jenúla*'. This

was followed more recently by his own award-winning arrangements of Debussy's 24 Préludes (8.572584) and Tchaikovsky's Queen of Spades and Voyevoda Suite (8.573015), also recorded with the New Zealand Symphony conducted by Breiner himself.

Premiered live in July 2013 was the music for a huge transmedia project to consist of audio recording, several interactive videos, and audience involvement platforms – *Slovak Dances, Naughty and Sad.* This project is based on Breiner's own 100-minute orchestral suite of dances which was recorded by the Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra with the composer conducting in September 2018 (8.574184-85).

Films that include his musical scores have enjoyed wide international exposure, including *Anne of Green Gables*, Timothy Findley's *Piano Man's Daughter* produced by Whoopi Goldberg and *The Magic Flute*. His music has been featured many times on popular TV shows, including the CBC series *Wind at My Back* and *Seasons of Love*.

It is difficult to assign a title to this artist – is he the conductor who composes or is he the pianist who arranges? As he simply states, 'I am a musician'. In this age of high specialisation, it is not so easy to find someone who, with the same ease, takes the podium for a popular light classics concert, plays and directs from the piano, conducts a symphonic orchestra in Barber or Janåček, or in a programme of his own arrangements, a chamber orchestra with a Baroque programme while playing the harpsichord or a group of almost 200 musicians recording a score for a Universal Pictures movie.

Peter Breiner began to study the piano in early childhood in 1961, and his exceptional artistry led to his early admission to the conservatory in Košice in 1971. He studied piano with L. Kojanova and composition with J. Podprocky, as well as conducting and percussion.

From 1975 to 1981 he studied composition at the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava with Alexander Moyzes, one of the most significant figures in modern Slovak music. Peter Breiner lived in Toronto, Canada, from 1992 to 2007, and then moved to New York.

Proficient in seven languages, Breiner has hosted various TV and radio programmes about music. In 1993 he was a co-host and music director of the most popular TV talk show in Slovakia, attracting over two million viewers in a country with a population of five and a half million. He has his own column in one of Slovakia's most influential weekly newspapers, while his first book *Maple Leaves* came out in April 1998 and immediately became a No. 1 non-fiction national bestseller. In 2016 he published his second book *Isn't There Another Globe?*

A JOURNEY

Calm Romantic Piano Music • 2



Work

The works on this album were compiled in response to a direct request from Naxos Chairman Klaus Heymann. Frustrated at the quality of the existing crossover solo piano works on the market, and remembering the highly successful albums featuring the Symphonic Pop Orchestra, which I orchestrated and released on Naxos. Klaus Heymann suggested that I compose and record similar albums of calm and soothing piano compositions which would meld melodic substance with the musical expression so often lacking from the extant market recordings of 'relaxing music'. I had in fact already been thinking about a similar project, and enthusiastically agreed to the proposal. Recording sessions were duly arranged, featuring mostly original pieces and coupling them with some tranquil and serene classical pieces in new arrangements.

The works on this release are a selection from the complete number of pieces recorded.

Working with the RPO

Conducting while playing solo piano – a couple of centuries ago it used to be just one of the basic skills that every musician was supposed to master. In our days of specialisation it is becoming more and more unusual. However, I always enjoyed much more when I could be just one of the musicians in the orchestra rather than a towering authority over them.

The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra is a brilliant group that does not need much conducting – we just enjoyed the music making together and basked in the rich acoustics of the Henry Wood Hall. It is an old and proven truth that by playing in a group musicians inspire each other and I am sure my playing was made much better by soaking up all the beauty that came from the orchestra.

Peter Breiner

Royal Philharmonic Orchestra Leader: Duncan Riddell



As the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (RPO) approaches its 75th anniversary in 2021, its mission to enrich lives through orchestral experiences that are uncompromising in their excellence and inclusive in their appeal places the RPO at the forefront of music making in the UK. Performing approximately 200 concerts each season and with a worldwide audience of more than half a million people, the Orchestra embraces a broad repertoire that enables it to reach the most diverse audience of any British symphony orchestra. Cadogan Hall in London has been the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra's home since 2004. Here it performs an annual season of concerts, many of which are subsequently toured to its seven principal residency venues. In addition, the Orchestra also promotes more than 45 concerts each season at partnership venues across the country. In London, the Orchestra also promotes a season of symphonic concerts at the Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall and a popular series at the iconic Royal Albert Hall, as the Hall's Associate Orchestra. As a respected cultural ambassador, the RPO enjoys a busy schedule of international touring, performing in the world's great concert halls and at prestigious international festivals.

Registered Charity No. 244533 www.rpo.co.uk

www.rpo.co.uk

Slovak-born Peter Breiner is one of the world's most versatile musicians. He is an acclaimed pianist, arranger and conductor with compositions that are universally admired, and whose *Beatles Go Baroque* album (8.555010) has to date sold a quarter of a million copies. In the second of Breiner's *Calm Romantic Piano Music* series (*Volume 1* is on 8.574256), he again achieves the rare feat of fusing melodic beauty with genuine musical expression. These beguiling original pieces sit alongside serenely beautiful new arrangements drawn from the classical repertoire.

Peter BREINER A JOURNEY CALM ROMANTIC PIANO MUSIC • 2

1	Peter BREINER (b. 1957) The Magic Goblet	3:20	14	Peter BREINER Sunday Morning on Sunday	5:09				
2	Johann Sebastian BACH (1685–1750) Prelude No. 1 in C major	2:47	15	George Frideric HANDEL (1685–1759) Lascia ch'io pianga) 3:12				
3	Peter BREINER We Reached This Far Snowfall Song	2:27 4:06	16	Pyotr Il'yich TCHAIKOVSKY (1840–1893) October: Autumn Song	3) 3:37				
5	Mama, Can You See Me?	4:00 3:58	17	Franz Joseph HAYDN (1732–1809) Un poco adagio	5:53				
6	Gabriel FAURÉ (1845–1924) Pavane	3:49	18	Peter BREINER Good Old Times	3:35				
7	Peter BREINER Come and Tell Me	2:52	19	Elephant on a Parachute Pyotr Il'yich TCHAIKOVSKY	3:01				
8	King of Hyperboles The Final Song	3:36 3:35	20	None but the lonely heart	3:32				
10 11	That's the Way She Is Where to Go, Where to Be?	3:40 2:59	21	George Frideric HANDEL Dank sei Dir, Herr	4:47				
12	Just a Tiny Waltz Antonín DVOŘÁK (1841–1904)	2:59	22	TRADITIONAL Greensleeves	4:03				
13	Largo	4:59	23	Johann Sebastian BACH Largo	3:21				
WORLD PREMIERE RECORDINGS									

Peter Breiner, Piano Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

Royal I millar monie Orchesti a

Recorded: 19–20 September 2020 at Henry Wood Hall, London, UK