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CLASSICS

ALC 0153

Fairytale

Toke Møldrup, cello
Yi-jia Yin, piano

Carl Nielsen (1865-1931)
Fantasy Pieces, Op. 2 for cello and piano
(arr. Møldrup)

01. *Romance*. Andante con duolo 03:20
02. *Humoresque*. Allegretto scherzando 02:48

Serge Rachmaninov (1873-1943)
Sonata, Op. 19 in G minor

03. Lento - Allegro moderato 13:26
04. Allegro scherzando 06:46
05. Andante 05:42
06. Allegro mosso 11:02

Wantong Jiang (1957-)

07. Capriccio on the Theme of HongYan 05:08

Leoš Janáček (1854-1928)

Fairytale

08. Con moto 04:38
09. Con moto 04:02
10. Allegro 02:52

Fritz Kreisler (1875-1962)

11. Tambourin Chinois Op. 3 (arr. Møldrup) 03:51

Total Time: 63:40

Recordings by **Fabio Ferri** in Abbey Rocchi Studios (Rome, February 2025)

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"**Fairy tale**" a word that holds so much more than just a story. It is an entry into another world, a place where fantasy and reality merge, and where time ceases to exist. Music has that same magical power. It carries us to places unknown, into emotions beyond words. When we listen, we open doors to beauty, poetry, and drama-spaces where imagination runs free. On this CD, Yi-jia Yin and I have gathered works that each carry a sense of the fairytale-pieces that invite us into musical storytelling. The title piece, Janáček's Fairytale, is inspired by the Russian tale of Tsar Berendey. It sings with Janáček's distinctive melodic turns, unexpected harmonies, and vivid colors, as if whispering an ancient story. The music feels like a conversation, the cello and piano weaving together a scene from a lost world. Rachmaninov's great Sonata for Cello and Piano is, in its own way, also a fairytale. It may not depict a specific legend, but it is filled with the sweeping emotions of grand narratives—melancholy, longing, passion. The music is both deeply personal and dazzlingly expressive, full of contrasts that pull the listener into a world of shadow and light. Interestingly, Rachmaninov himself lived in Denmark for a short period in 1917, seeking refuge after the Russian Revolution. Though his time there was brief, the themes of exile and nostalgia echo through his music, adding another layer to the fairytale-like quality of his works. Carl Nielsen's Two Fantasy Pieces offer another perspective. Their improvisatory lightness and spontaneous character feel like fleeting dreams—music that exists in the moment, full of warmth and playfulness. These short pieces, with their Danish clarity and charm, hold a poetic voice from my own musical heritage.

Fairytales exist everywhere. From China, Wantong Jiang brings us a modern reflection on an ancient melody in his Capriccio on the Theme of HongYan. Here, tradition and innovation merge seamlessly, much like in storytelling, where each retelling brings something new. Jiang's music shifts between delicate lyricism and brilliant virtuosity, reimagining the ancient HongYan melody in a fresh, vibrant way. Finally, Fritz Kreisler's Tambourin Chinois, originally for violin and piano, takes on a new life in my arrangement for cello and piano. Written in 1910, the piece reflects a European fascination with the East, a stylized imagining of China rather than an authentic representation. The music is full of brilliant colors and lively energy, dancing like sunlight reflecting on a bustling city scene. It paints a playful, animated picture of movement, celebration, and fleeting joy—an exotic dream seen through early 20th-century European eyes. Across these works, we have sought to create a sense of unity—not through geography or history, but through the moods and images they evoke. These pieces, from different corners of the world, are connected by their ability to transport us elsewhere, to awaken the imagination, and to remind us of the power of storytelling through music. In a world filled with noise and uncertainty, there is something deeply valuable in stepping into these musical tales, in letting them unfold, and in allowing them to remind us that beauty, elegance, and imagination are still very much alive. Lean back, and let the music speak.

Toke Møldrup



Toke Møldrup is one of Denmark's most prominent cellists, known for his expressive playing, nuanced sound, and deep commitment to both classical and contemporary repertoire. His performances are shaped by a strong artistic voice, an inquisitive mind, and a broad international perspective. As a soloist, he has performed with orchestras such as The Danish National Symphony Orchestra, Aarhus Symphony Orchestra, New Taiwan Symphony Orchestra and Tivoli Copenhagen Phil, working with conductors including Christian Arming, Toshiyuki Kamioka, Lan Shui, and Joshua Weilerstein. He gave the European premiere of John Williams' Cello Concerto and has appeared at venues such as Carnegie Hall, Wigmore Hall, Musikverein Vienna, and the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. A passionate chamber musician, Møldrup was a member of the award-winning Paizo Quartet and has since performed with ensembles such as the Copenhagen Cello Quartet and the Danish Piano Trio. He has collaborated with pianists Yaron Kohlberg, Steven Beck, Tanja Zapolski and Katrine Gislinge, and played at major festivals across Europe, North America, and Asia. His work is marked by close relationships with composers. He has premiered and recorded works by Simon Steen-Andersen, Per Nørgård, Christian Winther Christensen and others. His commitment to new music was also central during his years with Athelas Sinfonietta Copenhagen. His discography spans a wide spectrum, from *Bach Revisited* (Bridge Records), *Cello Libris* (BIS), and *Beethoven: Works for Piano and Cello* with Yaron Kohlberg (Aulicus Records), to *Consolation* with Tanja Zapolski (Gateway Music) and *Solo in Scéna* (Aulicus Records), featuring Britten, Kodály, and Nørgård. Toke Møldrup is a Professor of Cello at the Royal Danish Academy of Music in Copenhagen, where he leads the cello department and is active in artistic research. His current projects include *BY HEART*, an exploration of memorization in classical music, and *Transrangement*, a creative approach to performing early repertoire through recomposition. He is Artistic Director of the Svanekegaarden International Cello Masterclass & Festival and is regularly invited to teach at masterclasses and institutions such as Cleveland Institute of Music, Manhattan School of Music, Central Conservatory of Beijing, and the Accademia di Santa Cecilia in Rome. Toke Møldrup plays a cello by David Tecchler (Rome, 1697), generously on loan from the Augustinus Foundation.



Yijia Yin is a distinguished pianist, educator, and advocate for cultural exchange. As a Professor and Master's Thesis Supervisor at the Central Conservatory of Music in China, she plays a vital role in shaping the next generation of musicians. She also serves as a committee judge for the Conservatory's Grade Examination, an Art Adviser to the China-Europe International Culture Art Festival, and a cultural volunteer for the China Federation of Literary and Art Circles. Yin is a Promotion Ambassador for G. Henle Verlag Publishing House, strengthening her connection between Eastern and Western music traditions. She holds honors degrees from the Central Conservatory of Music and the Manhattan School of Music, where she was awarded the Dean's Award for Excellence. Yin's performance career has spanned continents, with solo concerts in New York and notable appearances at the Manhattan Chamber Music Festival. In 2018, she received the "Outstanding Contribution Award" from The New York City Council for promoting cultural harmony through music. Yin Yijia has excelled in numerous international competitions, earning top prizes in events such as the Schumann International Piano Competition, the YMCA-YWCA National Piano Open, and the Hong Kong National Piano Competition. Her artistry has captivated audiences worldwide, performing in venues including the Beijing National Grand Theatre, Beijing Concert Hall, and prestigious international stages. Yin has collaborated with renowned musicians such as Lynn Harrell, Wolfgang Schmidt, and Qin Liwei. In addition to her performance career, Yin has contributed to music education, serving as the official piano art director of the CCTV Piano Violin Competition. Her outreach efforts have included performances for alumni of Harvard and Columbia University and appearances on CCTV's music programs. Yin Yijia has also ventured into film, portraying a pianist in the short film HELP. She has participated in major international music competitions and her recordings, such as *Overtone* and *The Voice of Angels*, further cement her presence in classical music. Her cultural diplomacy efforts include performances at the G20 Civil Society conference in 2016 and the BRICS Summit in 2017. Yin has also been featured in the China Impressionist and Chinese Contemporary Cultural Masters series by China Post, and has performed in UNESCO France and the Antonian Theatre in Rome. In 2018, she was invited by the New York City Council to perform during the Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration. Yin Yijia's dedication to music, education, and cultural exchange has made her a leading figure in the global classical music community.