



Hans Seeling Piano Works
Jouni Somero Piano

World Première Recording

Hans Seeling (b Prague 14.2.1828 d Prague 26.5.1862) was pianist and composer. Illhealth obliged him to go to Italy in 1852, and in 1856 he toured in the East, returning to Italy in 1857. After setting in Paris (1859), he made his home in Germany. The lung condition from which he was suffering worsened and he returned to his native town, where he died. Seeling's youth means that his compositions, all of which are for piano, are relatively few in number, but merited comparison with Chopin and Henselt in his time, specially **Concert Studies op.10**.

Jouni Somero (b. 1963) is one of the most active Finnish musicians on the scene today. So far he has given over 2,900 concerts all over the world, including Australia, Japan, Ukraine, Spain, France, Germany, Sweden, Estonia, Kosovo, Russia, Brazil, Canada and Finland. He began studying the organ when he was eight years old but switched to the piano at the age of 12, studying the latter in Switzerland and at the Music Academy in Cologne under Professor Herbert Drechsel. Under the legendary Hungarian pianist Georges Cziffra he gained a deeper insight into the music of Liszt. Michael Ponti, the American virtuoso, has also acted as Somero's musical advisor. From 1981 to 1989 Somero lived in Germany, working as an assistant at the Music Academy of Düsseldorf and in other capacities. Since 1990 he has pursued his career solely as a concert pianist. He was awarded a diploma at the International Music Competition in Rio de Janeiro.

Jouni Somero's recording career began in 1989 (with Liszt's 12 Transcendental Etudes), since when he has made about 100 discs for different labels (Naxos, BMG, MILS, Jubal, FC-Records etc). These include Bach's Das Wohltemperierte Klavier and Die Kunst der Fuge, Liszt's Harmonies Poétiques et Religieuses, Liszt's transcriptions of Beethoven's Symphonies 1 and 5, Rebikov's Piano Works, Henselt's Concert Etudes, Op. 2, Schubert's Wanderer Fantasy, Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition, Rachmaninov's Piano Works (Vol.1-4), An Anthology of Finnish Piano Music (Vol. 1-5) and the world premiere recording of

several piano works by Felix Blumenfeld, Benjamin Godard and Hugo Reinhold. He also recorded the complete piano music of Sergei Bortkiewicz (Vol.1-9) Pjotr Tchaikovsky (Vol.1-6) and Erkki Salmenhaara.

Somero's wide repertoire includes all the solo piano works of Rachmaninov, Tchaikovsky, Bortkiewicz, Salmenhaara and Kuula as well as seldom heard music by such composers as Alkan, Godard, Arensky, Godowsky, Henselt, Thalberg, Glinka, Blumenfeld, Rebikov, Reinhold, Seeling, Rubinstein and Gottschalk. He has also made many piano arrangements of orchestral, operatic and pop music.

Recorded at Kuusaa Hall in Kuusankoski Finland on 28-29.8.2017

Recording engineer: Jouko Ahera.

Producer: Jouni Somero.

Grand Piano: Steinway&Sons D

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www.jounisomero.com