



## STOLEN MOMENTS

Rikke Sandberg

Johannes Brahms  
Solo piano works

# JOHANNES BRAHMS 1833-1897

## Chaconne (Arrangement for piano – left hand only)

- [1] from the Partita in D minor for violin solo by Johann Sebastian Bach BWV 1004 16:48

## Variations on a Hungarian song

- [2] Opus 21 no 2 D major 08:06

## 2 Hungarian dances (arranged for piano solo)

- [3] No 1 G minor 03:25  
[4] No 4 F# minor 05:22

## 8 Piano pieces Opus 76

- [5] No 1 Capriccio F# minor 05:03  
[6] No 2 Capriccio B minor 03:29  
[7] No 3 Intermezzo Ab major 03:01  
[8] No 4 Intermezzo Bb major 03:00  
[9] No 5 Capriccio C# minor 03:21  
[10] No 6 Intermezzo A major 05:17  
[11] No 7 Intermezzo A minor 04:26  
[12] No 8 Capriccio C major 04:44

## Intermezzo Opus 116

- [13] No 2 A minor 04:46

Eftertænkksomhed er det ord, som bedst beskriver den sindsstemning jeg kommer i, når jeg spiller og lytter til Brahms' klavermusik. Især hans intermezzi – et intermezzo: en pause, en tid – før, efter eller indimellem. En tid til at reflektere over fremtid, fortid eller bare nuet. En tid fuld af håb, forventninger, fortrydelser, sorg, glæde, kærlighed og spænding på hvad det næste bliver. Brahms intermezzi er fyldt med alle disse sindsstemninger og mange flere.

Jeg kunne ønske et stort intermezzo for hele kloden, at vi alle stoppede op, lyttede og reflekterede. Jeg håber, at jeg ved at dele denne time med utroligt oprigtige, dybfølte og gennemkomponerede værker af Brahms, inviterer lytterne indenfor til en pause, et intermezzo. I køkkenet under madlavning, ved middagsbordet, i sofaen eller sengen, i bilen eller hvor man nu ellers kan lytte til musik. Og jeg håber inderligt, at den kærlighed jeg har til Brahms' musik skinner igennem i mit spil og min fortolkning og giver lytteren samme fuldstændige glæde som jeg selv har når jeg spiller musikken.

Denne CD er dedikeret til min fine ven, som alt for pludseligt forlod os. Ebbe Tørring spillede Opus 76 nr. 1 for mig sidste gang jeg var sammen med ham. Jeg spillede Opus 76 nr. 1 for ham og hans familie og venner ved hans begravelse og jeg dedikerer hele Opus 76 til alle de fantastiske gode snakke og tider vi havde sammen ved flyglet. De var – klavertimer – men også vidunderlige intermezzi som jeg savner.

Reflection is the word that mostly comes to my mind when playing and listening to Brahms' piano music. Especially the intermezzi – an intermezzo: a break, a time – before, after or in between. Time to reflect on future, past or simply the now. Time full of hope, expectations, regrets, sorrow, joy, love and thrill about what is to come. Brahms intermezzi are all full of this and much more.

Sometimes I wish for the entire world to have an intermezzo, to stop, listen and reflect. I hope that, by passing this hour of Brahms' sincere and utterly well composed piano music on, I contribute to some listeners' moments of intermezzi. In the kitchen, at the dinner table, in the couch or car or wherever it is being listened to. And I hope that my playing and interpretation is showing the love I have for Brahms' music in a way that will fulfill the listener as much as it fulfills me to play it.

This cd is dedicated to my good friend who passed away very suddenly. Ebbe Tørring played Opus 76 no 1 for me the last time I saw him. I played Opus 76 no 1 for him and his family and friends at his funeral and I dedicate the full Opus 76 to all the great talks and times I had with him at the piano. They were – even though piano lessons – also wonderful intermezzi that I miss.

**RIKKE SANDBERG** har siden sin debutkoncert 2002 været en del af eliten i dansk musikliv, og kendt som en usædvanlig markant pianist. Hun er konstant tilstedeværende og fuldkomment fordybet i musikken, og hendes kompetencer og talent synes at være uden begrænsninger – hun spiller lige så gerne musik, der er flere hundrede år gammel, som musik der er skrevet i går. Rikke Sandberg har alle dage dedikeret sit klaverspil og musikerskab til at fungere i flest mulige sammenhænge.

Som solist med og uden orkester, som akkompagnatør af store navne blandt sangere og instrumentalister og som kammermusiker i ind- og udland bl.a. med det legendariske crossoverensemble "Mad Cows Sing".

Det er lyst, nysgerrighed og en enorm trang til at spille musik hele sin vågne tid, der driver hende og hun ønsker ikke at begrænse sig.

Når hun ikke sidder ved klaveret, arbejder hun med sin egen Nordisk Kammermusikfestival, hvor hun er kunstnerisk leder, eller tager sig af de kommende generationer i sin egenskab af lærer på Det Kongelige Danske Musikkonservatorium og Syddansk Musikkonservatorium og som tilbagevendende jurymedlem/juryformand i Steinway Klaverfestival og Jugend Musiziert.

Hun er ofte orkesterpianist til torsdagskoncerter med DR Radiosymfoniorkestret, Malmø Symfoniorkester, Copenhagen Phil og Athelas Sinfonietta.

Siden 1996 har Rikke Sandberg spillet klaverduo med veninden Tanja Zapolski.

Rikke Sandberg har modtaget mange priser: Bl.a. Jacob Gades store Legat, Victor Schiølers Mindelegat, Helge og Merete Finsens Hæderslegat, Ungdommens Sonningpris og Anmelderringens Musikpris. Selvsamme anmeldere har skrevet: "Sandberg spiller med en sådan autoritet at de færreste danske pianister ville kunne hamle op med hendes rigt nuancerede og overlegent beherskede spil" (Jyllandsposten). "(hun) føjer styrtstøer af noder sammen til lange åndende forløb med skarpt tegnede detaljer, farverig nuancering og et ekspressivt deklamatorisk nærvær der suger opmærksomheden til sig" og "Først og fremmest er hun kunstner, opvisning interesserer hende ikke. Lytteren får et oprigtigt, dybt koncentreret og helt igennem ukrukket billede af musikken" (Politiken)

"Magien opstod i Dronningesalen da pianisten Rikke Sandberg indviede det nye Steinway Flygel i Den Sorte Diamant. Sjældent har man hørt så poetisk og indfølt en fortolkning af Brahms romantiske klaverklange." (Jyllandsposten) og "få danske pianister gør så stor en forskel i vores musikliv som hun" (Politiken i fødselsdagsomtale i 2017).

Udnævnt til Årets klassiske musiker i Politiken 2005, Ugens og Årets klassiske CD i P2's "Amadeus".

Rikke Sandberg is recognised as one of the most prominent pianists in Danish music culture and, since her debut recital in 2002, has been an elite part of the Danish music scene. She is constantly present and totally absorbed in the music and her competence and talent are without bounds – she is as comfortable playing music written several hundred years ago as she is playing music written yesterday.

Rikke Sandberg's flexibility in her piano playing and musicality has enabled her to dedicate herself to playing in as wide a range of musical contexts as possible. As a soloist, both with and without orchestra, as an accompanist for well known singers and instrumentalists and as a chamber musician, both within Denmark and abroad – notably with, amongst others, the legendary crossover ensemble, "Mad Cows Sing". It is with passion, curiosity and an enormous desire to play music every waking hour, that Rikke is driven and she has no wish to limit herself.

When she is not sitting at the piano, Rikke works on her own Nordic Chamber Music Festival where she is the artistic leader. Or she is nurturing the next generation in her role as teacher at the Royal Danish Academy of Music and the Danish National Academy of Music, as a frequent member of the jury and jury chairman of the Steinway Piano Festival and Jugend Musiziert. She is often the orchestral pianist for concerts with the Danish National Symphony Orchestra, with the Malmö Symphony Orchestra, Copenhagen Phil and with Athelas Sinfonietta.

Since 1996, Rikke has played piano duo with her friend, Tanja Zapolski.

Rikke Sandberg has been awarded many prizes. These include Jacob Gade's store Legat; Victor Schiølers Mindelegat; Helge og Merete Finsens Hæderslegat; Ungdommens Sonningpris and the Danish Society of Classical Music Critics Award. Likewise, critics have written:

"Sandberg plays with such authority, that few Danish Pianists can match her richly nuanced and brilliantly restrained playing"

"(she) expresses oceans of notes, forming long, nimble and witty phrases with detailed clarity, colourful nuances and an expressive, declamatory presence which draws the listener's attention" and "First and foremost, she is an artist. Show does not interest her. The listener gets a sincere, deeply concentrated, thoroughly unaffected picture of the music".

"Magic was incited in the Queen's Hall, when the Pianist Rikke Sandberg inaugurated the new Steinway grand piano in the Black Diamond, Royal Library. It is seldom one hears such a poetic and empathic interpretation of Brahms' romantic piano tone "Few Danish pianists make such a large impact on our music life as she does"

Named Classical Musician of the year, 2005 by the leading Danish newspaper Politiken.

Classical CD of the week and the year in P2's "Amadeus", Danish National Radio.



I am full of gratitude to all these foundations who have economically supported this CD:  
Augustinus Fonden, Oficon Fonden, Beckett-Fonden, Aage og Johanne Louis-Hansens Fond, Fri-  
modt-Heineke Fonden, Magister Jürgen Balzers Fond, Solistforening af 1921, Dansk Solistforbund

And thank you:

To Pianoværkstedet Mattsson & McGehee for lending me the amazing Fazioli F278.

To Nødebo Kro for hosting Preben Iwan and me in the most wonderful room with a stunning view  
and very loud birds outside. We enjoyed it so much!

A huge thanks to Katy Ridley for english translation and to Jesper Lützhøft, the master of words, for  
CV and sparring partnership.

To Jorn Lendorph for exquisite taste and strong, honest opinions.

And thank you to my people, my loved ones, for sharing my intermezzi in life and filling them with  
love, laughs and loads of joy ❤️

Recorded in the DXD audio format (Digital eXtreme Definition), 352.8 kHz/32bit.

Microphone main array: 5x DPA 4006TL

Pyramix DAW system with Horus preamps/converters and Tango Controller.

Monitored on B&W 802 Diamond speakers.

Producer, edit, mix and mastering: Preben Iwan

Photo cover/booklet: Brita Fogsgaard

Graphic design: Marianne Langberg

Piano technician and tuner: Gorm Munk

Fundraiser: Stine C

Recorded June 25-28 2018 in Nødebo Kro on a grand Fazioli model F278

Bracelet by Holger®

Earlier CD releases:

Brahms solo piano: Sonata no 3 & 16 waltzes - Classico 2005

Anders Koppel: "The Abyss" - Cowbell music 2006

Anders Koppel: Concerto for saxophone and piano - Dacapo 2006

Rachmaninov solo piano: Études-tableaux opus 39 & Corelli Variations - CDklassisk 2008

Rachmaninov & Liszt: Piano Concertos with Luxembourg Philharmonia - CDklassisk 2012

Symbiosis: Piano Duo with Tanja Zapolski - CDklassisk 2012



## JOHANNES BRAHMS 1833-1897

- Chaconne (Arrangement for piano – left hand only)**
- [1] from the Partita in D minor for violin solo by Johann Sebastian Bach BWV 1004 16:48
- Variations on a Hungarian song**
- [2] Opus 21 no 2 D major 08:06
- 2 Hungarian dances (arranged for piano solo)**
- [3] No 1 G minor 03:25
- [4] No 4 F# minor 05:22
- 8 Piano pieces Opus 76**
- [5] No 1 Capriccio F# minor 05:03
- [6] No 2 Capriccio B minor 03:29
- [7] No 3 Intermezzo Ab major 03:01
- [8] No 4 Intermezzo Bb major 03:00
- [9] No 5 Capriccio C# minor 03:21
- [10] No 6 Intermezzo A major 05:17
- [11] No 7 Intermezzo A minor 04:26
- [12] No 8 Capriccio C major 04:44
- Intermezzo Opus 116**
- [13] No 2 A minor 04:46

**dana  
cord**



www.danacord.dk  
© Danacord 2018

