



03/09-(5)

**Title:**  
**Karol Szymanowski**  
 (1882-1937)  
 Complete Works for  
 Violin and Piano

**Musicians:**  
 Joanna Madroszkiewicz, violin  
 Paul Gulda, piano

1 CD

**Order Number**  
 MDG 603 1555-2

**UPC-Code:**



### Chamber Spotlight

The operas and ballet music of Karl Szymanowski are familiar to friends of classical music. His compositions for small ensemble, however, are regarded as an insider's tip even among those in the musical know. On their new recording the Polish violinist Joanna Madroszkiewicz and her Austrian pianist Paul Gulda place the Polish impressionist's virtuoso chamber music in the spotlight. They present Szymanowski's complete works for violin and piano – in the best MDG quality.

### Formative Years

Karol Szymanowski owed his first encounters with music to his father, who gave him piano lessons when he was seven years old. Szymanowski also began to compose at an early age. He had the benefit of professional training at the Warsaw Academy of Music and wrote his Sonata in D minor op. 9 there. This work documents a phase in his artistic development during which he had learned to apply a progressive compositional technique while also working on the basis of the models offered by César Franck and Johannes Brahms.

### Experimental Idiom

It was after a trip to Sicily that Szymanowski, now in the period of his mature artistry, wrote the cycle *Myths, Three Poèmes* op. 30 within the shortest time. It would become his most important work for violin and piano, for it was here that he developed an experimental musical language transcending the limits of the major-minor system with great virtuosity while

also revealing new tone colors of the two instruments in manifold ways.

### Virtuoso Twosome

In the *Nocturnes and Tarantella* op. 28 Joanna Madroszkiewicz very impressively demonstrates her great virtuoso capabilities. In the transcription of the *Three Capriccios by Paganini* the composer even offers the pianist an additional voice, enabling him to shine as the violinist's sensitive partner in dialogue. The WDR termed the Chopin recording by these two interpreters a "special treat", and musicweb-international seconded the motion: "A most interesting disc."

### Henryk Wieniawski

Virtuoso Music for Violin and Piano  
 Joanna Madroszkiewicz, violin  
 Manfred Wagner-Artzt, piano  
 MDG 603 0863-2

### Frédéric Chopin

Transcriptions for Violin and Piano  
 Joanna Madroszkiewicz, violin  
 Paul Gulda, piano  
 MDG 603 1396-2

