



ACCORDING TO AN ACCORDION

Andersen's tales transformed

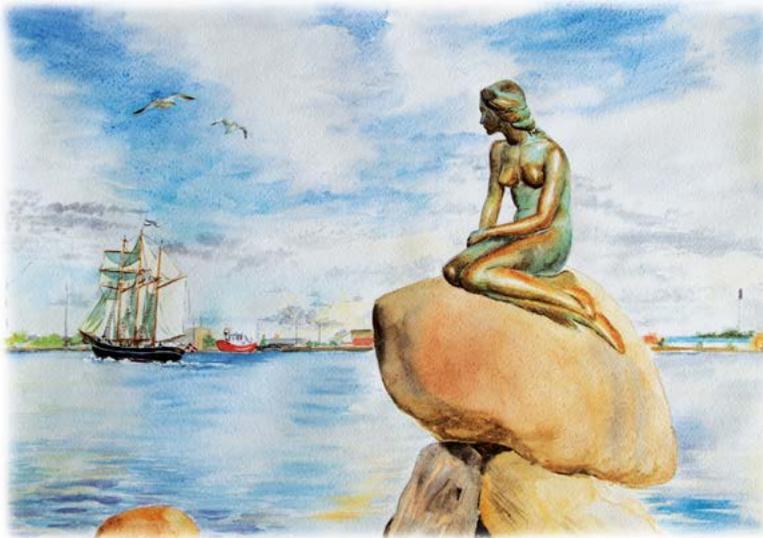
A smaller version of the NAXOS logo is positioned in the top left corner of the album cover inset.

ON THE PATH TO H.C. ANDERSEN

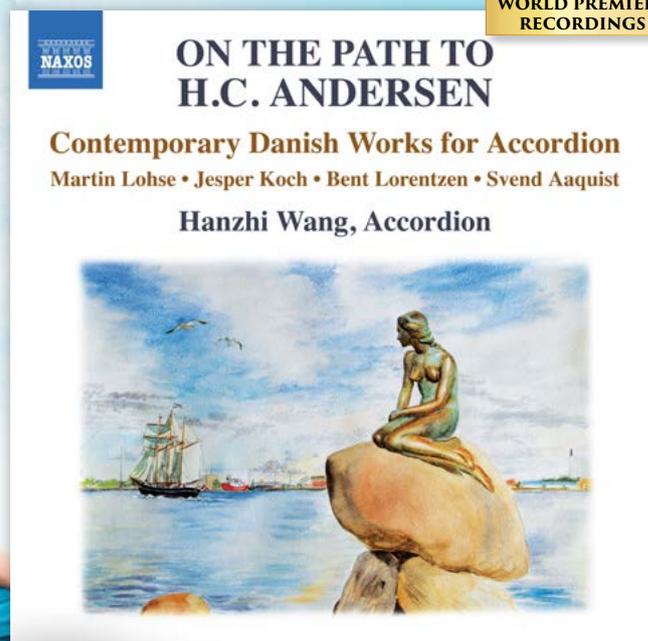
Contemporary Danish Works for Accordion

Martin Lohse • Jesper Koch • Bent Lorentzen • Svend Aaquist

Hanzhi Wang, Accordion



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INCLUDES
WORLD PREMIERE
RECORDINGS

8.573904

Price Code: NXP

Playing Time:
54:51

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Hanzhi Wang

ON THE PATH TO H.C. ANDERSEN

Contemporary Danish Works for Accordion

LOHSE • KOCH • LORENTZEN • AAQUIST

Hanzhi Wang, Accordion

With this unique programme Hanzhi Wang takes us into the 'fairy-tale world of the accordion' in works by Danish composers that explore both the darkness and luminosity of Hans Christian Andersen's famous stories. Poignant reflection and tragic depiction infuse Martin Lohse's *Menuetto* and *The Little Match Girl* (dedicated to Hanzhi Wang), while his post-minimalist *Passing* series forms adventurous 'mobiles' of dancing light. From Jesper Koch's quixotic *Jabberwocky* to Svend Aaquist's evocative *Saga Night*, this new repertoire for a relatively recent concert instrument is both dramatic and uplifting.

Key Features:

- 'On the Path to H.C. Andersen' in many ways tells the story of the development of the classical accordion in Denmark since the pioneering work of Per Nørgård. The rich sonorities of the accordion on the concert stage have more often in the past been associated with arrangements of famous repertoire from the past, but recent generations of composers have latched onto its expressive potential through the more adventurous programming ideas of virtuosos such as Hanzhi Wang, and this vibrant program represents part of a new and attractive resource in contemporary music that has a wide appeal.
- Not all of the works on this CD are directly associated with the fairytales of Hans Christian Andersen, but these Danish works share a magical atmosphere that can easily participate in this world, with a steely core of authenticity that reminds us that these kinds of stories are not only for children.

“ *On the Path to H.C. Andersen* tells the story of the development of the classical accordion, where many of the Danish composers are inspired by the world-famous fairytales by Hans Christian Andersen – told in a shining and adventurous language. Some of these pieces already belongs to the standard repertoire for the accordion, and they are played all over the world as an important contribution to the rapidly growing repertoire for the instrument.

Personally, I have always been fascinated by Andersen’s fairy-tales – ever since I was a child in China. And possibly it was this invisible connection which finally brought me to his native country, Denmark. In Denmark I found so many pieces that were somehow connected to fairy-tales and Nordic sagas, and also atmospheres within darkness and lightness – which are very characteristic seasons of the north. So I just had to explore more of this adventurous world, where I found that the music takes the listener into all sorts of imaginations and colours. Also for me as a performer, these pieces have been a true pleasure to work on, with their equilibristic and technical challenges, as well as the melodic and melancholic tone. Coming from one country with a lot of folklore-based adventures (China), to another area with similar traditions (the Nordic countries), it also strikes me that the similarities of atmospheres are more obvious than the differences.

I have had the wonderful pleasure to explore the energy and drama of Jesper Koch’s *Jabberwocky*, as well as the long and imaginative Nordic feast in Svend Aaquist’s *Saga Night*. And the personal contact with these composers has been invaluable for my interpretations. In particular, it has been interesting to work closely with Martin Lohse, which dedicated his sad and personal *The Little Match Girl* to me. Perhaps as another invisible connection, considering that the life as student in a far-away country can be as lonely as the life of the girl in H.C. Andersen’s story. ”

– Hanzhi Wang

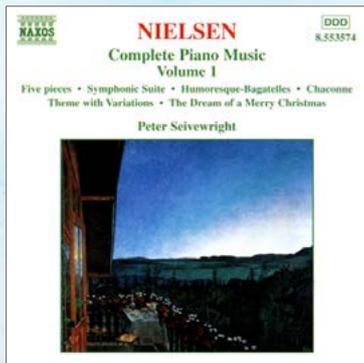


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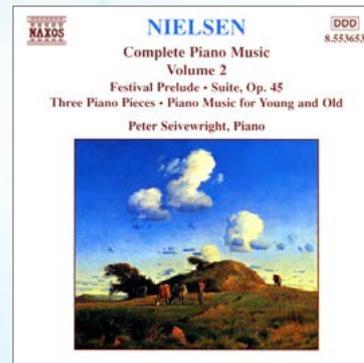
About Hanzhi Wang

The classical accordion is rapidly growing as a concert instrument, thrilling audiences in new ways. Up-and-coming artist, **Hanzhi Wang**, is the accordion's perfect ambassador. Praised for her engaging stage presence and performances that are technically and musically brilliant, her career has already taken her around the globe with performances in Europe and Asia. As First Prize winner of the Young Concert Artists International Auditions in New York, she is now introducing US audiences to the accordion with recitals throughout the country, including debuts in New York at Carnegie Hall's Zankel Hall and in Washington, DC at the Kennedy Center. Other distinctions include first prizes in several music competitions around the world.

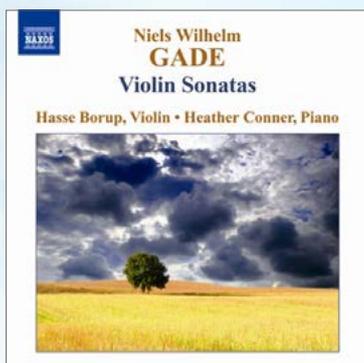
Danish Instrumental Music recordings on Naxos



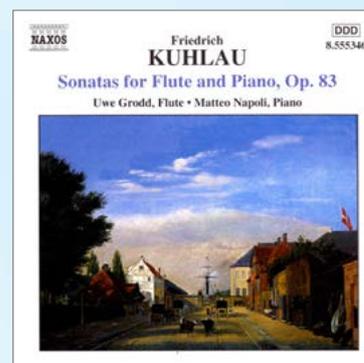
8.553574
"I liked [Peter Seivewright's] way with meditative movements, and his big, poetic tone."
– Fanfare



8.553653
"Pleasingly idiomatic and flowing."
– BBC Music Magazine



8.570524
"Three fine Danish violin sonatas in beautifully shaped performances."
– Gramophone
pizzicato
 ★★★★★



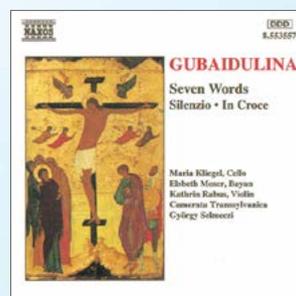
8.555346
"Highly sympathetic performances ... The recording is excellent and this disc is another real Naxos discovery."
– The Penguin Guide



Accordion Music recordings on Naxos



8.573373
"All the musicians on this CD relish their roles and perform with considerable panache, especially the concerto soloists."
– Fanfare



8.553557
"The combined effect of solo cello and bayan (the Russian push-button accordion) is utterly mesmeric." *– Classic CD*



8.572772
"Geir Draugsvoll is a mesmerising soloist ... A marvellous disc."
– BBC Music Magazine ★★★★★



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