



**Debussy – Ravel**  
**Roger Benedict *viola* – Simon Tedeschi *piano***

Following on from their highly successful disc 'A Winter's Tale', viola virtuoso Roger Benedict and renowned pianist Simon Tedeschi present a new studio album reimagining masterpieces by Debussy and Ravel for the rich, mellow tone of the viola – the 'melancholy dreamer', as Berlioz described it. With its wistful sound, the viola gives a new and fresh character to these pieces, which, even now, seem radical in their conception.

The album opens with Benedict's arrangements of four of Debussy's evocative **Préludes**, and closes with the composer's kaleidoscopic **Cello Sonata**. In between, we hear viola arrangements of Ravel's lyrical **Violin Sonata** – a youthful work, left unpublished at his death – as well as his sensual **Piece in the form of a Habanera** and the soulful, melancholy **Kaddisch**, with the viola singing the hauntingly beautiful melodic line. The album also features Ravel's radiant **Sonatine** in its original version for solo piano.

**Roger Benedict's** career has encompassed work as a conductor, soloist, orchestral player, chamber musician and teacher. Former Principal Viola of the Philharmonia Orchestra in London and of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, he has appeared as soloist with both of those ensembles as well as with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, Ulster Orchestra, Canberra Symphony, New Zealand Symphony and the Orchestra Ensemble Kanazawa in Japan.

Pianist **Simon Tedeschi** has been hailed as 'true greatness' (*Sydney Morning Herald*). He tours and performs globally with leading orchestras, and is a regular classical and jazz collaborator at prestigious festivals, venues and concert series including the Abu Dhabi International Arts Festival, Shanghai Arts Festival, Sydney, Brisbane and Fremantle Festivals, the Sydney Opera House's Utzon Music Series, Musica Viva Australia and UKARIA Cultural Centre in Adelaide. For ABC Classics he has made acclaimed recordings of music by Gershwin, Mussorgsky, Richard Strauss and more.

The artwork for the album cover is by Loribelle Spirovski, a Sydney-based Archibald finalist.

## TRACKLISTING

	CLAUDE DEBUSSY	
	<b>4 Préludes</b>	[14'07]
	<i>Arranged for viola and piano by Roger Benedict</i>	
1	I. La puerta del vino (The Wine Gate)	4'07
2	II. Des pas sur la neige (Footsteps in the Snow)	4'22
3	III. La Fille aux cheveux de lin (The Girl with the Flaxen Hair)	2'47
4	IV. Général Lavine - eccentric	2'51
	MAURICE RAVEL	
5	<b>Pièce en forme de Habanera</b>	3'35
	<i>Arranged for viola and piano by Paul-Louis Neuberth</i>	
	MAURICE RAVEL	
6	<b>Kaddisch</b> from Deux mélodies hébraïques	5'19
	<i>Arranged for viola and piano by Roger Benedict</i>	
	MAURICE RAVEL	
	<b>Sonatine pour le piano</b>	[12'51]
7	I. Modéré	5'00
8	II. Mouvement de menuet	3'48
9	III. Animé	4'03
	MAURICE RAVEL	
10	<b>Sonate posthume (Violin Sonata in A minor)</b>	15'27
	<i>Arranged for viola and piano by Roger Benedict</i>	
	CLAUDE DEBUSSY	
	<b>Cello Sonata</b>	[11'23]
	<i>Arranged for viola and piano by Roger Benedict</i>	
11	I. Prologue (Lent, sostenuto e molto risoluto)	4'31
12	II. Sérénade (Modérément animé)	3'19
13	III. Finale (Animé, léger et nerveux)	3'33
	Total Playing Time	62'42

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**Simon Tedeschi** *piano*

*Recorded 10-12 May 2021 and 3 & 27 May 2022  
in the Eugene Goossens Hall of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's  
Ultimo Centre, Sydney.  
Producer: André Shrimski.  
Engineers: Jason Blackwell and Virginia Read.  
Mastering: Andrew Edgson.*

**Digital release on ABC Classic on 23 September 2022 | ABCL0029D**  
**Physical release available at [www.simontedeschi.com](http://www.simontedeschi.com)**