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02/07-(5)

**Title:**

**Franz Schubert** (1797-1828)  
Sonata D 959 A major  
Sechs Deutsche Tänze D 820,  
Vier Ländler D 814, Deutscher  
Tanz D 841,1; Walzer D 844

**Musician:**

Christian Zacharias, piano

1 CD / SACD

**Order Number:**

CD: MDG 340 1440-2

Hybrid-SACD: MDG 940 1440-6

**UPC-Code:**

CD:

Hybrid-SACD:



**Spontaneous Idea**

The idea first occurred to us spontaneously during a concert. The festival public was listening to the magic of Schubert's Sonata in A major as if spellbound, and suddenly we knew: We just have to record this sonata! And the second coincidence: a free day for a recording session was spontaneously found in the pianist's packed travel journal. The result: a super audio CD now being released in connection with the decision of the MIDEM Classical Award international jury to name Christian Zacharias "Artist of the Year 2007". Congratulations!

**Art and Life**

Some five hundred dances by Schubert have come down to us, but many of them are extant today only in the form of sketches creating the impression that the composer quickly committed them to paper after a genial improvisation. His friends were fond of employing them during the *Schubertiaden* held in private circles, and they are also known to have been performed in concert, after the presentation of one to two sonatas, in what was a quite informal transition between art and life. Only a few pianists are able to convey these seemingly so simple dances with the feathery lightness with which Christian Zacharias interprets them here on a Steinway D concert grand piano.

**Sonata Trilogy**

Not too long before his death, Schubert created a sonata trilogy endowing the various keys with a special program. The Sonata in A major composed during the summer of 1828 symbolizes "Youthful Mirth and Trust in God." Its first movement contains an element also employed by

Schubert in the other two sonatas: a short and succinct rhythmic formula from the "Atlas" lied from his Swansong cycle.

**World Elite**

No doubt about it: Christian Zacharias belongs to the world piano elite. His recordings on MDG have won numerous prizes and awards. It is thus not surprising that his recording of the Trout Quintet (with the Leipzig String Quartet) clearly bested all the other twenty-one recordings in a blind test conducted among reviewers of the *Répertoire* music journal.

Artist of the Year 2007



**Franz Schubert:** Quintet D 667 "The Trout"

Christian Zacharias, piano  
Leipziger Streichquartett,  
Christian Ockert, double bass  
MDG 307 0625-2



**W. A. Mozart:** Piano Works

Fantasie KV 396+397, Rondo KV 485, 494, 511 etc.

Christian Zacharias, piano  
MDG 340 0961-2

