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Classical CD Review by [Peter J. Rabinowitz](#)



PROKOFIEV Cinderella, op. 97: Spring Fairy; Summer Fairy; Autumn Fairy; Winter Fairy. **Piano Sonata No. 6.** **RACHMANINOFF** Piano Sonata No. 2 (revised version). **GODOWSKY** Symphonic Metamorphoses on “Die Fledermaus” • Vivian Choi (pn) • **NORTHERN FLOWERS NF/PMA 9985 (67:46)**

Vivian Choi, just approaching 30 when she recorded these performances in 2009, is an exemplar of the modern global pianist: Born in Seoul, she got her early training in Australia (where she also started on a law degree) and went on to further studies in Saint Petersburg and the United States, where she’s served on the faculty of Long Island Conservatory. It’s not clear whether or not this is her debut recording, but it’s my first experience of her playing, and it reveals her virtues clearly. She boasts an enviably transparent, generally treble-leaning sound that often provides luminous textures. And as is obvious as early as the Cinderella excerpts—which, shrewdly chosen as the recital’s opener, provide a quick tour of the range of her emotional sympathies—she’s alert to shifts in mood, especially those that come with subtle harmonic shadings. Thus, while her rubato can be quite evocative in the more romantic music, she can play with tremendous rhythmic vitality in the sections (starting with the chipper account of Spring Fairy) that demand it. All in all, she’s got an impressively quick reaction time, and everything on the disc is well characterized.... [click for more](#)

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