



Dances For Piano and Orchestra

Joel Fan, piano

Northwest Sinfonietta

Reference Recordings

[Available at Arkivmusic.com](http://Arkivmusic.com)

American pianist Joel Fan is a veteran of Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road Project whose tastes extend well beyond the standard repertoire. He has made several enjoyably eclectic recordings for San Francisco's Reference Recordings label, the latest featuring an almost-forgotten genre, the single-movement dance piece for piano and orchestra. Hearing the seven remarkable selections collected here, one wonders why they aren't heard more frequently. Consider Chopin's *Krakowiak* in F Major, a piece based on the Polish dance of the same name, which combines poetry and dazzle. Saint-Saens's *Valse-Caprice* similarly packs plenty of charm; Weber's *Polonaise brillante* (arr. by Liszt) shows a range of piano writing from the intimate to the exuberant; Charles Wakefield Cadman's *Dark Dancers of the Mardi Gras* includes a sprinkling of New Orleans-style jazz and Louis Moreau Gottschalk's *Grand Tarantelle*, Op. 67 is a similarly colorful amalgam of dance tunes. The Northwest Sinfonietta, led by Christophe Chagnard, supplies spirited playing throughout.