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Kalman Rubinson Sept. 1, 2016



**Tchaikovsky: Symphony 6, Pathétique**

Dvorák: *Russalka Fantasy* (arr. Honeck-Ille) Manfred Honeck, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra  
Fresh! Reference FR-720SACD (SACD/CD, DSD256 download from [www.nativedsd.com](http://www.nativedsd.com)). 2016.

I have effusively praised the previous efforts of Manfred Honeck, the Pittsburgh Symphony, and the Soundmirror recording team, and this is yet another winner. The *Pathétique* doesn't lack for recordings in any format, but this one rises to the top in recording quality, and the performance is outstanding. Honeck's pacing seems at first a bit deliberate, and at no time does he approach the intensity of Mravinsky or Markevitch. Yet his approach allows for a wider range of contrasts of tempo and dynamics, the latter well beyond what those much earlier recordings could have encompassed. That's not to say that the performance is exaggerated in any way; it's appropriately dramatic and completely satisfying—and the accompanying *Russalka Fantasy*, by Dvorák, is a delight.

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