



# CHERRY GROVE MUSIC REVIEW

SEPTEMBER 2024

**CHOPIN & DEBUSSY**  
**CARLOS GARDELS**  
MS1847

For an artist with skills and talent in any medium, such as music, painting or writing, there is a propensity to celebrate one's being in a relaxed manner from time to time with no trying or effort, instead experiencing just pure joy. That is how I found the MSR Classics recording of select pieces of Chopin and Debussy by pianist Carlos Gardels – an act of pure splendor and beauty at its best. The confirmation of that came while a friend was moving my car in his driveway and heard the Gardels CD playing on my car's stereo. "What is that? It is so beautiful," he explained while one of the six Chopin nocturnes began playing. My friend earlier that evening recalled his time at the historic Woodstock music festival, expressing his love of the music of that era. Regardless of my friend's personal musical context, Gardels' exquisite pianism grabbed him, heart and soul. Occasionally, such an exceptional music album arises that requires special recognition. Should we give Gardels five stars or two thumbs up? For me that would be too mundane. Instead, I am compelled to use a baseball metaphor to acknowledge it being akin to a grand slam greeted by a standing ovation in the bleachers. His CD recording is also made special by an accompanying booklet in which he wrote about the musical genius of Chopin and Debussy and their related contributions to the development of musical expression.

Joel C. Thompson