

Mozart - Piano Concertos Nos. 21 and 24 (1990)

Written by bluesever

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Concerto No. 21 in C Major for Piano and Orchestra, K. 467 1. I. *Allegro maestoso* 14:17 2. II. *Andante "Theme from Elvira Madigan"* 7:46 3. III. *Allegro vivace assai* 6:13

Concerto No. 24 in C Minor for Piano and Orchestra, K. 491

4. I. *Allegro* 12:57 5. II. *Larghetto* 7:51 6. III. *Allegretto* 8:43

Robert Casadesus – piano Members of the Cleveland Orchestra George Szell – conductor
(CBS Masterworks – Great Performances 96)

The brilliant, energetic readings of Robert Casadesus and George Szell set a standard for this repertory that has yet to be surpassed. Dramatic and tightly wound, but never dry or unsmiling, these accounts combine grace and lucidity with an almost operatic lyricism, and remain among the most satisfying and evocative in the catalog. The sound is dry but firm and detailed, and Sony has done an excellent job of remastering. ---Ted Libbey, Editorial Reviews

There are numerous accounts of the famous Elvira Madigan concerto, so called because the second movement is featured in the movie, but this vintage performance is as fine as any, with Casadesus absolutely sparkling at the keyboard and Szell providing crisp, energetic backup. This is one of the sunniest pieces of music ever written, it will brighten up almost any mood, and at bargain price (and including a very fine version of the less well known Concerto No. 24) this is tough to beat. --- "pspa" (Boston, MA USA)

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