

Grieg - Piano Concerto Saint-Saens - Piano Concerto No.2

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Grieg: Concerto for Piano & Orchestra in G minor, Op. 16 1. I - *Allegro molto moderato* (12:12) 2. II - *Adagio* (5:59) 3. III - *Allegro moderato molto e marcato* ('30)

Saint-Saens: Concerto No. 2 for Piano & Orchestra in G minor, Op. 22

4. I - *Andante sostenuto* (10:22) 5. II - *Allegretto scherzando* (5:33) 6. III - *Presto* (6:12)

Philippe Entremont – piano Philadelphia Orchestra Eugene Ormandy – conductor (CBS Masterworks – Great performances 68)

There is no doubt about Entremont's virtuosity in these virtuoso concertos. But there is something more to them than that, and his very hard tone won't do for the melting soft passages (or passages that should be melting). By the end of one concerto, indeed, I had become tired of it even in the virtuoso work, where he never seems able to give what can be called a wash of sound in those passages up and down the keyboard. And the finale tune of No. 4 is so hard, it's just steely efficient technique. Ormandy, that admirable concerto accompanist, does everything he can—but that doesn't make this solo playing into music. --- gramophone.net

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