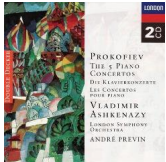


Prokofiev - The 5 Piano Concertos (Ashkenazy) [1997]

Written by bluesever

Sunday, 25 October 2009 13:53 - Last Updated Saturday, 22 March 2014 15:57

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CD1 01] Piano Concerto No.1 in D-flat Major, Op.10: I. Allegro brioso 02] Piano Concerto No.1 in D-flat Major, Op.10: II. Andante assai 03] Piano Concerto No.1 in D-flat Major, Op.10: III. Allegro scherzando 04] Piano Concerto No.2 in G minor, Op.16: I. Andantino 05] Piano Concerto No.2 in G minor, Op.16: II. Scherzo. Vivace 06] Piano Concerto No.2 in G minor, Op.16: III. Intermezzo. Allegro moderato 07] Piano Concerto No.2 in G minor, Op.16: IV. Allegro tempestoso 08] Piano Concerto No.4 in B-flat Major, Op.53 (for the left hand): I. Vivace 09] Piano Concerto No.4 in B-flat Major, Op.53 (for the left hand): II. Andante 10] Piano Concerto No.4 in B-flat Major, Op.53 (for the left hand): III. Moderato 11] Piano Concerto No.4 in B-flat Major, Op.53 (for the left hand): IV. Vivace CD 2 01] Piano Concerto No. 3 in C major op. 26 - I. Andante. Allegro 02] Piano Concerto No. 3 in C major op. 26 II. Andantino con variazioni 03] Piano Concerto No. 3 in C major op. 26 III. Allegro ma non troppo 04] Piano Concerto No. 5 in G major op. 55 - I. Allegro con brio 05] Piano Concerto No. 5 in G major op. 55 - II. Moderato ben accentuato 06] Piano Concerto No. 5 in G major op. 55 - III. Toccata: Allegro con fuoco 07] Piano Concerto No. 5 in G major op. 55 - IV. Larghetto 08] Piano Concerto No. 5 in G major op. 55 - V. Vivo 09] Concertino for cello and orchestra op. 123 - I. Andante mosso 10] Concertino for cello and orchestra op. 123 - II. Andante 11] Concertino for cello and orchestra op. 123 - III. Allegretto Vladimir Ashkenazy – piano London Symphony Orchestra Andre Previn – conductor

It is not surprising that Prokofiev's 3rd Piano Concerto is widely played, as it provides much excitement for pianist and audience. One of the ultimate Sphinx-like riddles, though, is why the 2nd Piano Concerto does not enjoy similar success. A few lucky people realize the greatness of this Everest of piano concertos. Luckily, music is always being re-discovered, whether it is Bach, Vivaldi, swing jazz, or disco. Hopefully the Internet can speed this process, because more people should get caught up in the whirlwind music of Prokofiev. Almost all of Prokofiev's music for the piano is alternately clever and bombastic. You might accumulate all of Prokofiev's piano music and wonder where to find some similar music. You won't find it. Sergei was a true original and any attempts at imitation would be futile. Luckily, you can come back to much of Prokofiev's music again and again, finding something new every time.

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There are relatively few complete sets of Prokofiev's Piano Concertos, and Ashkenazy plays them as well as anybody. Later, you may want to supplement this set with individual works by Argerich or Richter. Rest assured that you don't want to miss out on this set, especially with 2 CDs for the price of one. --- amazon.com

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