

# Sviatoslav Richter - Pianist of the Century - Complete DG Solo Concerto Recordings (9CD)

Written by bluesever

Sunday, 23 September 2012 17:16 -

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CD 1 **Robert Schumann (1810 - 1856)** 4 Marches, Op.76 1. 2. *G minor* 3:28

Waldszenen, Op.82

2. 1. *Eintritt* 2:00 3. 2. *Jäger auf der Lauer* 1:08 4. 3. *Einsame Blumen* 2:01 5. 4. *Verrufene Stelle* 3:18 6. 5. *Freundliche Landschaft* 1:09 7. 6. *Herberge* 2:20 8. 7. *Vogel als Prophet* 2:43 9. 8. *Jagdlied* 2:11 10. 9. *Abschied* 3:36

8 Fantasiestücke, Op.12

11. 1. *Des Abends* 4:08 12. 2. *Aufschwung* 2:50 13. 3. *Warum?* 3:19 14. 5. *In der Nacht* 3:45 15. 7. *Traumes-Wirren* 2:06 16. 8. *Ende vom Lied* 5:20

CD2

**Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756 - 1791)**

Piano Concerto No.20 in D minor, K.466

1. 1. *Allegro* 14:43 2. 2. *Romance* 10:18 3. 3. *Rondo (Allegro assai)* 8:13

Sviatoslav Richter, Warsaw National Philharmonic Orchestra, Stanislaw Wislocki

**Sergei Prokofiev (1891 - 1953)**

Piano Concerto No.5 in G major, Op.55

4. 1. *Allegro con brio* 5:04 5. 2. *Moderato ben accentuato* 4:00 6. 3. *Toccata* 1:54 7. 4. *Larghetto* 6:41 8. 5. *Vivo* 5:06

Sviatoslav Richter, Warsaw National Philharmonic Orchestra, Witold Rowicki CD3

**Sergey Vasil'yevich Rachmaninov (1873 - 1943)**

Piano Concerto No.2 in C minor, Op.18

1. 1. *Moderato* 11:10 2. 2. *Adagio sostenuto* 11:54 3. 3. *Allegro scherzando* 11:38

Sviatoslav Richter, Warsaw National Philharmonic Orchestra, Stanislaw Wislocki

4. *Prelude in C, Op.32, No.1* 1:16 5. *Prelude in B flat minor, Op.32, No.2* 3:11 6. *Prélude in B flat, Op.23, No.2* 3:19 7. *Prelude in D, Op.23, No.4* 4:27 8. *Prelude in G minor, Op.23, No.5* 3:45 9. *Prelude in C minor, Op.23, No.7* 2:24

CD4

**Robert Schumann (1810 - 1856)**

Piano Concerto in A minor, Op.54

1. 1. *Allegro affettuoso* 14:28 2. 2. *Intermezzo (Andantino grazioso)* 5:13 3. 3. *Allegro vivace* 10:20

Sviatoslav Richter, Warsaw National Philharmonic Orchestra, Witold Rowicki

4. *Introduction & Allegro Appassionato for piano & orchestra, Op.92* 15:43

Sviatoslav Richter, Warsaw National Philharmonic Orchestra, Stanislaw Wislocki Noveletten,

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Op.21

5. *No.1 in F (Markiert und kräftig)* 5:14

Toccata in C, Op.7

6. *Allegro* 6:35

CD5

### Franz Joseph Haydn (1732 - 1809)

Piano Sonata in G minor, H.XVI No.44

1. *1. Moderato* 9:58 2. *2. Allegretto* 3:48

### Frédéric Chopin (1810 - 1849)

3. *Ballade No.3 in A flat, Op.47* 7:13

### Claude Debussy (1862 - 1918)

Préludes - Book 1

4. *2. Voiles* 3:50 5. *3. Le vent dans la plaine* 2:02 6. *5. Les collines d'Anacapri* 3:06

### Sergei Prokofiev (1891 - 1953)

Piano Sonata No.8 in B flat, Op.84

7. *1. Andante dolce - Allegro moderato - Andante - Andante dolce come prima - Allegro* 15:51

8. *2. Andante sognando* 4:18 9. *3. Vivace - Allegro ben marcato - Andantino - Vivace* 9:42

CD6

### Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840 - 1893)

Piano Concerto No.1 in B flat minor, Op.23

1. *1. Allegro non troppo e molto maestoso - Allegro con spirito* 22:09 2. *2. Andantino semplice - Prestissimo - Tempo I* 6:55 3. *3. Allegro con fuoco* 7:07

Sviatoslav Richter, Wiener Symphoniker, Herbert von Karajan CD7

### Ludwig van Beethoven (1770 - 1827)

Rondo in B flat for piano & orchestra, WoO6

1. *Fragment, ergänzt von Carl Czerny* 9:22

Piano Concerto No.3 in C minor, Op.37 Kadenz: Ludwig van Beethoven

2. *1. Allegro con brio - Cadenza: Beethoven* 17:14 3. *2. Largo* 10:02 4. *3. Rondo (Allegro)* 8:47

Sviatoslav Richter, Wiener Symphoniker, Kurt Sanderling CD8

### Frédéric Chopin (1810 - 1849)

1. *Polonaise No.7 in A flat, Op.61 Polonaise-Fantaisie* 12:15 12 *Etudes, Op.10* 2. *No. 1 in C* 2:03 3. *No. 12 in C minor "Revolutionary"* 2:27 4. *Ballade No.4 in F minor, Op.52* 11:12

### Claude Debussy (1862 - 1918)

Estampes

5. *1. Pagodes* 6:09 6. *2. Soirée dans Grenade* 5:26 7. *3. Jardins sous la pluie* 3:16

### Alexander Scriabin (1872 - 1915)

Piano Sonata No.5 in F sharp major, Op.53

8. *Allegro - Presto con allegrezza Meno vivo - Prestissimo* 10:47

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CD9

### **Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 - 1750)**

1. *Prelude and Fugue in C (WTK, Book I, No.1), BWV 846 4:41* 2. *Prelude and Fugue in C sharp minor (WTK, Book I, No.4), BWV 849 8:52* 3. *Prelude and Fugue in D (WTK, Book I, No.5), BWV 850 2:50* 4. *Prelude and Fugue in D minor (WTK, Book I, No.6), BWV 851 3:39* 5. *Prelude and Fugue in E flat minor / D sharp minor (WTK, Book I, No. 8), BWV 853 10:27*

### **Franz Schubert (1797 - 1828)**

6. *Allegretto in C minor, D.915 6:08* 17 *Ländler, D.366*  
7. *Ländler in A major 5:24*

### **Robert Schumann (1810 - 1856)**

8. *Abegg Variations, Op.1 7:56*

### **Sergey Vasil'yevich Rachmaninov (1873 - 1943)**

9. *Prélude in G sharp minor, Op.32, No.12 2:13*

### **Sergei Prokofiev (1891 - 1953)**

*Visions fugitives, Op.22*  
10. 3. *Allegretto 1:15* 11. 6. *Con eleganza 0:26* 12. 9. *Allegretto tranquillo 1:03*

Although numerous CD incarnations of Sviatoslav Richter's Deutsche Grammophon recordings have graced the catalog, collectors surely will welcome this complete "original jacket" edition, programmed in accordance with the original LPs and newly remastered. These 1956-62 recordings capture Richter in his prime, and include performances that not only retain reference status (the Rachmaninov Second and Prokofiev Fifth concertos with Rowicki, selected Rachmaninov Preludes, Prokofiev's Eighth sonata, plus Schumann's Waldszenen and Toccata) but also belie Richter's often expressed aversion to studio recordings.

Granted, the Tchaikovsky First with Karajan and Beethoven Third with Sanderling are relatively staid in relation to alternative Richter studio versions on other labels. No complaints, however, regarding material stemming from the pianist's 1962 tour of Italy that contains long-held favorites among Richter fans such as the Chopin Fourth Ballade, the Scriabin Fifth sonata, Debussy's Estampes, and, for my money, the best recording ever made of Schumann's Op. 1 Abegg Variations--well, one of the two or three best, anyway! Consider this release a one-stop shop for those seeking a well-rounded survey of Richter's multifaceted, individual, and

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occasionally idiosyncratic artistry. --Jed Distler, ClassicsToday.com

Dedicated fans of Sviatoslav Richter may already have the performances contained on these nine discs, but any listener unacquainted with the Russian pianist's work could not do better than to start here. Recorded between 1956 and 1962 and released on Deutsche Grammophon between 1957 and 1965, these performances were most Western listeners' first introduction to Richter. The range of repertoire is enormous: from Bach to Prokofiev, with stops along the way for Mozart, Beethoven, Debussy, Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninov, and especially Schumann. The range of emotions is equally vast: heroic and lyric, tender and passionate, sensual and cerebral, subtle and virtuosic. The most impressive aspect of Richter's performances, though, is neither the range nor the repertoire, but Richter himself. With his golden tone, coruscating technique, and inspired interpretations, Richter is not only faithful to the spirit of the music, but fulfills it through the medium of his supple, sensitive, and supremely poetic artistic personality. Richter's virtuosity is on display in his blistering account of Schumann's Toccata, his poetry in his lyrical reading of Chopin's Polonaise-Fantaisie, and his warm romanticism in his triumphant interpretation of Rachmaninov's Second Piano Concerto. Though the recordings are antique -- most are monaural and the rest are stereo -- Deutsche Grammophon's remastering makes them as acceptable as possible to listeners raised on digital sound. --- James Leonard, Rovi

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