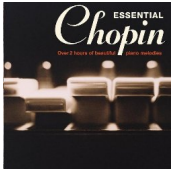


Frédéric Chopin - Essential Chopin (2003)

Written by bluesever

Thursday, 08 September 2011 18:51 - Last Updated Sunday, 06 October 2013 09:09

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Disc 1 01 *Grande Valse Brillante*, Op. 18 02 *Fantaisie-Impromptu*, Op. 66 03 *Nocturne in E-flat Major*, Op. 9, No. 2 04 *Waltz in A minor*, Op. 34, No. 2 05 *Mazurka in D Major*, Op. 33, No. 2 06 *Scherzo in B-flat minor/D-flat Major*, Op. 31 07 *Waltz in A-flat Major*, Op. 69, No. 1 08 *Nocturne in F-Sharp Major*, Op. 15, No. 2 [play](#) 09 *Waltz in B Minor*, Op. 69, No. 2 10 *Ballade in G Minor*, Op. 23 11 *Mazurka in B-Flat Major*, Op. 7 No. 1 12 *Waltz in G-Flat Major*, Op. 70, No. 1 13 *Nocturne in B Major*, Op. 32 No. 1 14 *Polonaise in A-Flat Major*, Op. 53

Disc 2 01 *Ballade in A-flat Major*, Op. 47 02 *Prélude in C-sharp minor*, Op. 45 03 *Waltz in D-flat Major*, Op. 64, No. 1 "Minute" 04 *Waltz in C-sharp minor*, Op. 64, No. 2 [play](#)

05 *Étude in C minor*, Op. 10, No. 12 "Revolutionary" 06 *Étude in G-flat Major*, Op. 10, No. 5 "Black Key" 07 *Nocturne in F minor*, Op. 55, No. 1 08 *Polonaise in A Major*, Op. 40, No. 1 "Military" 09 *Barcarolle in F-sharp Major*, Op. 60 10 *Prélude in D-flat Major*, Op. 28, No. 15 "Raindrop" 11 *Étude in A minor*, Op. 25, No. 11 "Winter Wind" 12 *Étude in E Major*, Op. 10, No. 3 "Tristesse" 13 *Scherzo in C-sharp minor*, Op. 39

Vladimir Ashkenazy - piano

Vladimir Davidovich Ashkenazy (born July 6, 1937) is a Russian-Icelandic conductor and pianist. Since 1972 he has been a citizen of Iceland, his wife Þórunn's country of birth. Since 1978, because of his many obligations in Europe, he and his family have resided in Meggen, near Lucerne in Switzerland. He is currently Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. Vladimir Ashkenazy is renowned for his performances of Romantic and Russian composers.

He has recorded Bach's *The Well-Tempered Clavier*; the complete 24 Preludes and Fugues of Shostakovich; the complete sonatas by Beethoven and Scriabin; the complete works for piano by Rachmaninoff, Chopin and Schumann; and seven of Liszt's 12 Transcendental Études. He has also recorded the piano concertos of Mozart (conducting from the keyboard with the

Philharmonia Orchestra); Beethoven (with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra under Sir Georg Solti; with Zubin Mehta and the Vienna Philharmonic; and conducting from the piano with the Cleveland Orchestra); Brahms (No. 1 with Bernard Haitink and the Concertgebouw Orchestra; and No. 2 with Bernard Haitink and the Vienna Philharmonic); Bartók (with Georg Solti and the London Philharmonic Orchestra); Prokofiev (with André Previn and the London Symphony Orchestra); and Rachmaninoff (with André Previn and the London Symphony Orchestra, and with Bernard Haitink and the Concertgebouw Orchestra). He has also performed and recorded chamber music.

Midway through his pianistic career, Ashkenazy branched into conducting. He has particularly been praised for his recordings of orchestral works by Sibelius, Rachmaninoff, Prokofiev, Shostakovich, Scriabin, Richard Strauss and Stravinsky.

He was the principal conductor of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra from 1987 to 1994, and was principal conductor of the Czech Philharmonic from 1998 to 2003. He became musical director of the NHK Symphony Orchestra in 2004. Besides these positions, Ashkenazy is conductor laureate of the Philharmonia Orchestra, conductor laureate of the Iceland Symphony Orchestra, and music director of the European Union Youth Orchestra, with which he performs regularly. Ashkenazy has also appeared in several Christopher Nupen music films, conducting extracts from the composer profiled, including Ottorino Respighi and Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky and performing at the piano. He succeeded Gianluigi Gelmetti as the chief conductor and artistic director of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra in January 2009. He has also made his own orchestration of Modest Mussorgsky's piano suite Pictures at an Exhibition (1982).

Ashkenazy is also known for his unique habits in solo piano performance: spurning coat and tie in favor of a white turtleneck and black suit; running (not walking) on stage to the piano; and running off stage after finishing and taking his bow.

Władimir Dawidowicz Aszkenazy (ur. 6 lipca 1937 w Gorki) – rosyjski pianista i dyrygent. W 1955 roku został laureatem II nagrody na V Międzynarodowym Konkursie Pianistycznym im.

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Fryderyka Chopina w Warszawie, w 1956 roku I nagrody na Międzynarodowym Konkursie im. Królowej Elżbiety Belgijskiej w Brukseli, a w 1962 roku I nagrody na Międzynarodowym Konkursie Muzycznym im. Piotra Czajkowskiego w Moskwie.

Aszkenazy koncertował w Polsce jako pianista w roku 1957, 1958 i 2000 (nie licząc konkursu w 1955). Prowadził też Orkiestrę Filharmonii Narodowej jako dyrygent. Świetny interpretator utworów Chopina, Rachmaninowa, Prokofjewa oraz wielu innych współczesnych kompozytorów.

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