Franz Liszt - Piano Concerto No. 1 & No. 2 (2000)

Written by bluesever
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Piano Concerto No. 1 in E-flat *1. Allegro maestoso 2. Quasi adagio 3. Alegretto vivace – Allegro animato*   [play] *4. Allegro marziale animato*   Piano Concerto No 2 in A

5. Adagio sostenuto assai – Allegro agitato assai 6. Allegro moderato

[play]

7. Allegro deciso – Marziale un poco meno allegro 8. Allegro animato

Sviatoslov Richter – piano London symphony Orchestra Kyrill Kondrashin – conductor

Sviatoslav Richter's studio recording of the Liszt Concertos, with the same collaborators heard in these live performances, has long been considered a classic. It also has extraordinarily fine recorded sound. In comparison, these performances are even more exciting, poetic, and spontaneous. They have been available in unauthorized editions for decades, but the current disc is the first ever taken from the original BBC master tapes and it sounds considerably more lifelike than any previous issue. Also, Richter never made studio recordings of the other works, and he plays both with extraordinary virtuosity and style. ---Leslie Gerber

Franz Liszt composed his Piano Concerto No. 1 in E-flat major, S.124 over a 26-year period; the main themes date from 1830, while the final version dates 1849. The concerto consists of four movements, which are performed without breaks in between, and lasts approximately 20 minutes. It premiered in Weimar on February 17, 1855, with Liszt at the piano and Hector Berlioz conducting.

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Franz Liszt wrote drafts for his Concerto for Piano and Orchestra No. 2 in A major, S.125, during his virtuoso period, in 1839 to 1840. He then put away the manuscript for a decade. When he returned to the concerto, he revised and scrutinized it repeatedly. The fourth and final period of revision ended in 1861. Liszt dedicated the work to his student Hans von Bronsart, who gave the first performance, with Liszt conducting, in Weimar on January 7, 1857.

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