

Mozart - Piano Concertos 23 & 19 (Pollini) [1984]

Written by bluesever

Thursday, 10 April 2014 15:59 -

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01] Piano Concerto No. 23 1 A K488 I. Allegro 02] Piano Concerto No. 23 2 A K488 II. Adagio 03] Piano Concerto No. 23 3 A K488 III. Allegro assai 04] Piano Concerto No. 19 1 F K459 I. Allegro Vivace 05] Piano Concerto No. 19 2 F K459 II. Allegretto 06] Piano Concerto No. 19 3 F K459 III. Allegro assai Maurizio Pollini – piano Wiener Philharmoniker Karl Böhm – conductor

I owned this recording when it was on the cheaper DG Musikfest label back in 1990. It says this incarnation was released in 1990 (with a picture of Pollini and Böhm on the cover) at the same time as the cheaper one that I owned. Maybe this one that's more expensive, was for Europe and the musikfest was domestic, for the U.S. Other than that scenario, I don't know why they would have two incarnations of the same record, at the same exact time, but anyway, this is one of my most cherished classical cds of all-time. In one of the old Penguin Guides to classical music, they rated the Perahia version with the English Chamber Orchestra above this one and also gave it the coveted rosette, but really, I can't see why anyone would prefer that one over this great Pollini version with Karl Böhm. The Perahia is recorded DDD, but the sound is not very detailed and is rather dull sounding. I much prefer this one that is recorded in very fine analog (I will take a fine analog recording, over a fine digital recording, any day of the week) sound. The sound is very warm and detailed in this superb version from the mid seventies. My favorite Piano concerto of all-time is the Mozart 23rd, and Pollini does an unbeatable job playing this beautiful concerto, with great support from Böhm and the superb Vienna Philharmonic. He does a superb job at playing one of Mozart's other great concertos the 19th. Pollini makes me like that one more than I usually do because of his interpretation and exquisite playing on this version. The first movement of the 19th, is one of his best opening movements, of all the Piano Concertos, but Pollini makes the 2nd and 3rd movements, a very enjoyable experience also. Pollini is definitely in the very top rank of current pianists, and I'm sure this classic recording will make you want to search out the other recordings of Maurizio Pollini if you haven't heard some of them already. Böhm is no slouch conducting Mozart Symphonies and Concertos either. If you don't like this record, there's no hope for you!!! --- M. A. Scott, amazon.com

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