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BACKHAUS • BRAHMS • Piano Concerto No. 1
 NAXOS Historical



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MADE IN
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BRAHMS (1833-1897)

Piano Concerto No. 1

Wilhelm Backhaus (1884-1969)

BBC Symphony Orchestra • Adrian Boult

Playing
 Time
 71:24

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Piano Concerto No. 1 in D minor, Op. 15

- | | | |
|---|--------------------|-------|
| 1 | Maestoso | 19:10 |
| 2 | Adagio | 12:46 |
| 3 | Allegro non troppo | 10:53 |
- Recorded 28th and 29th November, 1932
 in EMI Abbey Road Studio No. 1, London

Variations on a Theme by Paganini, Op. 35

- | | | |
|---------|----------|------|
| 4 | Theme | 0:29 |
| 5 - 18 | Book I: | 8:56 |
| 19 - 32 | Book II: | 7:21 |
- Recorded 19th November, 1929
 in Queen's Small Hall, London

- | | | |
|----|------------------------------------|------|
| 33 | Rhapsody in B minor, Op. 79, No. 1 | 8:02 |
|----|------------------------------------|------|
- Recorded 7th December, 1932 in EMI
 Abbey Road Studio No. 3, London

- | | | |
|----|------------------------------------|------|
| 34 | Rhapsody in G minor, Op. 79, No. 2 | 4:08 |
|----|------------------------------------|------|
- Recorded 7th December, 1932 in EMI
 Abbey Road Studio No. 3, London

Wilhelm Backhaus was a twentieth century virtuoso who had the distinction of making the first ever recording of a piano concerto (an abridged version of the Grieg in 1909), but it was for his interpretations of the works of Beethoven and Brahms that he became best known. The recordings on this CD include a work that he had performed at his London debut in 1901, the *Variations on a Theme by Paganini*. Backhaus was a performer of great technique and integrity and was keen to keep pace with advancements in recording technology. Although Backhaus re-recorded much of this repertoire, these earlier recordings possess a vitality and drive that are not always present in his later recordings.

Audio Restoration Producer: Mark Obert-Thorn

A complete tracklist can be found in the booklet

www.naxos.com

Cover Photograph: Wilhelm Backhaus (Lebrecht Collection)

