

NAXOS Historical **BACKHAUS • Brahms Piano Concerto No. 2** 8.110766ALL RIGHTS IN THIS SOUND RECORDING, ARTWORK, TEXTS AND TRANSLATIONS RESERVED. UNAUTHORISED PUBLIC PERFORMANCE, BROADCASTING AND COPYING OF THIS COMPACT DISC PROHIBITED.  
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ADD

**BRAHMS (1833-1897)****Piano Concerto No. 2**

Wilhelm Backhaus (1884-1969)

Saxon State Orchestra • Karl Böhm

Playing  
Time  
71:50**Piano Concerto No. 2 in B flat major, Op. 83**

- |   |                      |       |
|---|----------------------|-------|
| 1 | Allegro non troppo   | 16:04 |
| 2 | Allegro appassionato | 8:05  |
| 3 | Andante              | 11:53 |
| 4 | Allegretto grazioso  | 9:06  |
- Recorded June, 1939 in Dresden

**Ballades, Op. 10**

- |   |                             |      |
|---|-----------------------------|------|
| 5 | No. 1 in D minor ("Edward") | 4:07 |
| 6 | No. 2 in D major            | 4:59 |
- Recorded 5th December, 1932  
in EMI Abbey Road Studio No. 3

- |      |                 |       |
|------|-----------------|-------|
| 7-22 | Waltzes, Op. 39 | 13:10 |
|------|-----------------|-------|
- Recorded 27th January, 1936  
in EMI Abbey Road Studio No. 3

- |       |                  |      |
|-------|------------------|------|
| 23-24 | Hungarian Dances | 4:26 |
|-------|------------------|------|
- Recorded 1st April, 1933  
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. Backhaus made the first of his three recordings of Brahms's *Piano Concerto No. 2 in B flat, Op. 83*, in Dresden in June 1939, months before the outbreak of the Second World War. If post-war Backhaus performances could sometimes be ponderous, this recording shows him still in youthful spirits, even though he was fifty-five years old at the time of the recording. The *Andante* has some particularly beautiful ensemble playing.

Audio Restoration Producer: Mark Obert-Thorn

Special thanks to Donald Manildi and the International Piano

Archives at the University of Maryland (IPAM)

A complete tracklist can be found on page 4 of the booklet

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Cover Photograph: Wilhelm Backhaus (Lebrecht Collection)

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