

NAXOS Historical CORTOT: Chopin: Sonatas • Polonaises 8.111065



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MADE IN THE EU



8.111065

CHOPIN

Alfred Cortot (1877-1962)
78 rpm recordings • Vol. 4

ADD

Playing Time
69:28

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| 1-4 | Piano Sonata No. 2 in B flat minor, Op. 35 'Funeral March' Recorded 5th June and 11th December 1928, London | 17:01 |
| 5-8 | Piano Sonata No. 3 in B minor, Op. 58 Recorded 6th July 1933, London | 23:22 |
| | 3 Chants Polonais, Op. 74 (transcribed by Liszt) | 8:02 |
| 9 | Spring | 2:34 |
| 10 | The Ring | 2:05 |
| 11 | My Joys Recorded 10th March 1939, London | 3:23 |
| 12 | Grande Polonaise, Op. 22 Recorded 5th February 1923, Camden, New Jersey | 4:49 |
| 13 | Polonaise No. 6 in A flat major, Op. 53 'Heroic' Recorded 4th & 5th July 1933, London | 6:30 |
| 14 | Polonaise No. 7 in A flat major, Op. 61 'Polonaise-Fantasia' Recorded 15th October 1947, London | 9:43 |

Posterity has judged Alfred Cortot as one of the greatest artists of the twentieth century. This fourth disc in the Naxos five volume series devoted to his 78rpm era recordings of Chopin includes three rarities: *My Joys* and the *Polonaise-Fantasia*, both unreleased on 78rpm, and the first-ever CD appearance of the 1933 version of the *Piano Sonata No. 2*. Completed in only fourteen takes on 6th July, this version of the Sonata has incredible energy, particularly in the last movement. The stunning performance of the *Grande Polonaise, Op. 22* demonstrates Cortot's total understanding of Chopin's use of the decorated melodic line. The popular *Polonaise in A flat, Op. 53* is played with majestic swagger and pomp, aided by a well recorded Steinway piano.

Producer and Audio Restoration Engineer: Mark Obert-Thorn
Special thanks to Nathan Brown, the International Piano Archives at the University of Maryland (IPAM), Donald Manildi and Charles Niss.

www.naxos.com

A complete track list can be found in the booklet
Cover Image: Alfred Cortot (Private Collection)



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