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RAWSTHORNE: Piano Concertos

NAXOS

Alan Rawsthorne was born in Haslingden, Lancashire, in May 1905. After abortive sorties into dentistry and architecture he entered the Royal Manchester College of Music. He gained his first notable success in 1938 with a performance of his *Theme and Variations for Two Violins*. After serving in the war, Rawsthorne devoted himself to composition until his death in 1971. Though not prolific, he produced a number of substantial works in most of the established forms including film music. Rawsthorne's *Piano Concerto No.1*, first performed in 1939, exhibits many of his characteristics: tonal fluidity, economy and clarity of means, and wit. His *Second Piano Concerto* was commissioned by the Arts Council of Great Britain, for performance during the Festival of Britain in 1951 and was designed to exploit the resources of both the piano and the pianist.



Alan
RAWSTHORNE
(1905-1971)



	Concerto No. 1 for Piano and Orchestra*	17:38
1	Capriccio: Allegro molto	7:19
2	Chaconne: Andante con moto	5:00
3	Tarantella: Vivace	5:13
4	Improvisations on a theme by Constant Lambert	12:15
	Concerto No. 2 for Piano and Orchestra*	26:25
5	Allegro piacevole	8:05
6	Allegro molto	5:00
7	Intermezzo: Adagio semplice	6:46
8	Allegro	6:25

* Peter Donohoe, Piano
Ulster Orchestra • Takuo Yuasa

Recorded at the Usher Hall, Belfast, Northern Ireland, 20th, 22nd-24th November 2001
 Producer: Andrew Walton (K&A Productions Ltd.) • Sound Engineer: Eleanor Thomason
 Post-Production: Emma Stocker, Andrew Walton • Music Notes: John M. Belcher
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 The Rawsthorne Trust and The Manchester Musical Heritage Trust.**
 Cover Photo: *Summertime in South Pembrokeshire* by Philip Sutton
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Playing Time
56:19



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