

Playing
Time:
59:18

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WORLD PREMIERE
RECORDINGS



8.559315



Ned
ROREM
(b. 1923)

Piano Concerto No. 2 (1951) 34:08

- 1 I. Somber and Steady 15:55**
- 2 II. Quiet and Sad 12:35**
- 3 III. Real Fast! 5:39**

Cello Concerto (2002) 25:10

- 4 I. Curtain Raise 1:40**
- 5 II. There and Back 3:59**
- 6 III. Three Queries, One Response 7:17**
- 7 IV. Competitive Chaos 1:51**
- 8 V. A Single Tone, A Dozen Implications 1:27**
- 9 VI. One Coin, Two Sides 4:29**
- 10 VII. Valse Rappelée 1:27**
- 11 VIII. Adrift 2:59**

World Première Recordings

Simon Mulligan, Piano
Wen-Sinn Yang, Cello

Royal Scottish National Orchestra
José Serebrier

Recorded at Henry Wood Hall, Glasgow, Scotland,
on 30th and 31st August, 2006.

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Assistant engineers: James Walsh and Richard Girvan

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Cover photograph of the composer by Claudia Kronenberg



AMERICAN CLASSICS

Chosen in 1988 as Composer of the Year by *Musical America* and now recognized as one of the finest song composers in America, Ned Rorem has also written a significant body of music for orchestra, including three *Symphonies* (Naxos 8.559149), a *Violin Concerto* and a *Flute Concerto* (Naxos 8.559278). When Leonard Bernstein gave the première of Rorem's *Third Symphony* with the New York Philharmonic in 1959, it signaled a significant triumph for his orchestral music, written in a tonal idiom alien to the experimental practices of the day. Composed in Morocco in 1951, the *Second Piano Concerto* has a distinctly American character. The last movement, 'Real Fast!', is a tour de force for soloist and orchestra, with jazz-like rhythms and an exhilarating conclusion. In his recent concertos such as the *Cello Concerto* of 2002, Rorem has abandoned the usual three-movement pattern. The composer has written: "Although I don't believe that non-vocal music can be proven to 'mean' anything ... it's still fun to give programmatic subtitles to various sections."

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