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Cover Photograph: Walter Gieseking (Private Collection)

SCHUMANN: Piano Concerto in A minor, Op. 54	29:11
1 Allegro affettuoso	14:33
2 Intermezzo: Andantino grazioso	4:59
3 Allegro vivace	9:39
Dresden State Orchestra • Karl Böhm	
Recorded ca. 1940-42	
GRIEG: Piano Concerto in A minor, Op. 16	26:09
4 Allegro molto moderato	11:31
5 Adagio	5:24
6 Allegro moderato molto e marcato	9:14
Berlin State Opera Orchestra • Hans Rosbaud	
Recorded 28th April and 13th October 1937	
7 FRANCK: Variations symphoniques	15:27
London Philharmonic Orchestra • Sir Henry Wood	
Recorded 31st October 1932	

This first of three discs of Walter Gieseking's pre-war concerto recordings documents a period when his repertoire was a good deal wider than it became in later years. Gieseking first became known for his unusually wide palette of tone and dynamics during the 1920s, with a "pianissimo [which] now and then becomes as nearly nothing as is possible to imagine...", and by the 1950s he was acknowledged as one of the finest interpreters of Mozart, Debussy and Ravel. This Naxos re-issue includes one of Gieseking's rarest recordings, the early 1940s Dresden recording of the Schumann Concerto, only ever released in Germany.

