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8.111327

ADD

# CHOPIN • SCHUMANN

## Alfred Cortot (1877 - 1962)

Playing  
Time  
62:56

	Fryderyk CHOPIN	
	Piano Sonata No. 2 in B flat minor, Op. 35	
	“Funeral March”	17:36
1	I. Grave – Doppio movimento	5:25
2	II. Scherzo	4:50
3	III. Marche funèbre: Lento	5:42
4	IV. Finale: Presto	1:39
	Recorded 7th-8th May 1953, in EMI Abbey Road Studio No. 3	
	Robert SCHUMANN	
5-17	Kinderszenen, Op. 15	17:15
	Recorded 7th May 1953, in EMI Abbey Road Studio No. 3	
	Waldszenen, Op. 82: No. 7	
18	Vogel als Prophet	2:36
	Recorded 19th April 1948, in EMI Abbey Road Studio No. 3	
19-40	Carnaval, Op. 9	25:29
	Recorded 7th-8th May 1953, in EMI Abbey Road Studio No. 3	
	Alfred Cortot, Piano	

Alfred Cortot was renowned above all as a pianist whose interpretations, especially of the works of Schumann, Debussy and Chopin, were often on a spiritual level. This 1953 performance of Chopin's *Piano Sonata No. 2* is his fifth and final commercial recording of the work (the 1928 recording is available on Naxos 8.111065; the 1927 recording is unissued). Cortot wanted to record the work again partly because he felt his interpretation would be 'an example for the young pianists, who are so little imbued with the Romantic spirit'. His 1953 and third recording of Schumann's *Kinderszenen* is notable for the familiar singing tone and poetic warmth he brings to *Kind im Einschlummern* (Child falling asleep) and *Der Dichter spricht* (The poet speaks). Cortot's interpretation of the youthful romanticism of *Carnaval* is full of colour and character, far preferable to bland and uninspired subsequent accounts from lesser pianists.

Reissue Producer and Audio Restoration Engineer: Mark Obert-Thorn  
Cover image: Alfred Cortot (Private Collection)



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