

NAXOS

DDD

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Playing Time
59:34

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Akio Yashiro, a close friend of the famous writer Yukio Mishima and the composer Toshiro Mayuzumi, was born in 1929 in Tokyo, where he studied, before a period at the Paris Conservatoire under Nadia Boulanger and Olivier Messiaen. He returned to Tokyo in 1956, later teaching at the Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music, where he had himself studied. He died in 1976, leaving a relatively small number of completed compositions, all of which show perfection and sophistication. His *Symphony* of 1958 and later *Piano Concerto* are both written in cyclic form. The former has a first movement originally inspired by Oscar Wilde's *Salomé*, and a second that suggests Messiaen in its melodic material. The *Scherzo* and *Finale* quote Japanese festival music and material derived from *Noh* plays. The first movement of the *Piano Concerto* is oriental in feeling, with a central movement dominated by a repeated ostinato and a *Finale* that suggests toccatas in the style of Prokofiev and Bartók.

Akio YASHIRO (1929-1976)

Piano Concerto	
1 Allegro animato	26:39
2 Adagio misterioso	12:24
3 Allegro - Andante - Vivace molto capriccioso	7:28
	6:38
 Symphony	
4 Prelude: Adagio - Moderato	32:55
5 Scherzo: Vivace	7:24
6 Lento	3:50
7 Adagio - Allegro energico	12:38
	8:53

Hiromi Okada, Piano
Ulster Orchestra • Takuo Yuasa

Recorded at the Ulster Hall, Belfast, Northern Ireland, 4th-7th September 2000 (4-7)
and 1st-3rd June 2001 (1-3)

Producer: Andrew Walton (K&A Productions Ltd.) • Engineer: Eleanor Thomason

Post-Production: Emma Stocker, Andrew Walton

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