

NAXOS

DDD

8.557146

Playing Time  
72:59

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BLISS: Piano Concerto

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Bliss's *Piano Concerto*, commissioned by the British Council for the 1939 New York World's Fair, was described by the composer in his own programme note '...to be played by Solomon and dedicated to the people of the U.S. so obviously it had to be a concerto in the grand manner and what is loosely called "romantic".' This is indeed a big-boned, energetic work with a relentless driving force, but there is also room for quieter, more personal emotions conveyed in a rich vein of lyricism. The 1952 *Piano Sonata* has a similar romantic and heroic mood, with much bravura writing. The *Concerto for Two Pianos* began life as the experimental *Concerto for piano, tenor and strings* of 1921, which is now lost. Realising that this unusual combination would be a hindrance to further performances, yet being fond of the work, Bliss eventually settled on a version for full orchestra, completed in 1950.



Arthur  
BLISS  
(1891-1975)

**Concerto for Piano and Orchestra in B flat major 38:49**

- |          |                                      |              |
|----------|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Allegro con brio</b>              | <b>16:41</b> |
| <b>2</b> | <b>Adagietto</b>                     | <b>10:43</b> |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Andante maestoso - Molto vivo</b> | <b>11:25</b> |

**Sonata for Piano 21:54**

- |          |                         |             |
|----------|-------------------------|-------------|
| <b>4</b> | <b>Moderato marcato</b> | <b>7:59</b> |
| <b>5</b> | <b>Adagio sereno</b>    | <b>7:59</b> |
| <b>6</b> | <b>Allegro</b>          | <b>5:56</b> |

**Concerto for Two Pianos and Orchestra\* 12:16**

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| <b>7</b> | <b>Allegro giusto - Larghetto tranquillo - Vivo</b> |
|----------|---|

**Peter Donohoe, \*Martin Roscoe, Piano**  
**Royal Scottish National Orchestra • David Lloyd-Jones**

Recorded at the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, UK., 12th-13th September 2002 (1-3, 7);  
at Potton Hall, Suffolk, 17th January 2003 (4-6)

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