

NAXOS ROREM: Piano Concerto No. 2 • Cello Concerto 8.559315

Playing
Time:
59:18

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Ned REREM

(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.

Producer and engineer: Phil Rowlands

Assistant engineers: James Walsh and Richard Girvan

Booklet notes: José Serebrier

Publishers: Southern Music Publishing Co. Inc.
(Piano Concerto No. 2); Boosey and Hawkes Music
Publishers Ltd. (Cello Concerto)

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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