

Idil Biret  
ARCHIVE EDITION · 11

"One notable aspect of the concert was the appearance on the podium of each composer in turn to conduct his own work: Messrs Cemal Reşit Rey, Ulvi Cemal Erkin and Ahmet Adnan Saygun all took the helm with great aplomb ... The pianist, Miss Idil Biret, barely 17 years old, proved herself to be a musician of remarkable personality, performing Adnan Saygun's *Piano Concerto No. 1* with great poise, lyrical eloquence and impressive technical mastery. The concerto itself is an attractive and imposing piece, with its clearly etched character, dramatic accents and originality of musical idiom. This powerful, tumultuous work-in which the piano is by no means treated with kid gloves, but rather pitted against the orchestra-deserves to become widely known. Miss Biret received a warm and enthusiastic ovation.

The orchestra in question was the Orchestre Colonne (France) whose excellent musicians, it should be noted, gave performances of high quality, marked by skill, fluency and coherence throughout. Programmes of new music, such as this, unquestionably demand a particular level of effort and commitment from an orchestra, and the Colonne players here acquitted themselves most admirably. Her Majesty Queen Elisabeth honoured the concert with her presence and was warmly applauded both on her arrival and as she took her leave."

*Jacques Stehman LA LANTERNE – BELGIUM 1958*

"We are in the presence of one of the greatest virtuosos of our time. I do not see in her generation any other pianist who possesses an equal mastery of the keyboard, in the service of such a mature mind so rich in imagination."

*Marc Pincherle NOUVELLES LITTERAIRES – FRANCE 1959*

**Adnan Saygun (1907-1991)**

**[1–3]** Piano Concerto No. 1 \*

28:27

**\*Orchestre Colonne • The Composer**

**[4–15]** 12 Preludes in Aksak Rhythms, Op. 45\*\*

23:52

**Jean Françaix (1912-1997)**

**[16–19]** Piano Sonata \*\*

08:06

**Charles Valentin Alkan (1813-1888)**

**[20]** Le chemin de fer

06:43

**Mili Balakirev (1837-1910)**

**[21]** Islamey

08:56

\* World première performance \*\* Dedicated to Idil Biret

Recorded: Saygun *Concerto*: Brussels, 8th August 1958 (mono); Saygun *Preludes*: Ankara 1970s (mono); Françaix: Baden-Baden 1960 (stereo); Alkan: Katowice 1998 (stereo); Balakirev: Lille 1993 (stereo)

Producers unknown except for Alkan: Günter Appenheimer

Saygun's *Concerto* and Balakirev's *Islamey* were recorded in concert; the remaining works are studio recordings.

All recordings are released for the first time

Restoration and transfers: Mark Obert-Thorn (USA 2011)

CD cover: The concert programme of the Saygun Concerto performance

CD cover photo: Idil Biret at a concert in the UN Assembly Hall, New York 1975

Even after restoration some sonic problems remain on the two Saygun recordings. It is felt, however, that their historical importance outweighs the blemishes on the original sources.



IBA038

ADD

8.571288

Playing time  
76:04



© & © 2011 Idil Biret  
Booklet notes in English  
Made in Germany  
[www.idilbiretarchive.eu](http://www.idilbiretarchive.eu)  
Peermusic and Schott Music International  
Manufactured by Sonopress  
and distributed by **MAXOS**

