



Idil Biret

ARCHIVE EDITION • 24

Idil Biret was introduced very early to the music of Bach. At the age of three she was trying to play from ear the preludes of Bach from the *Well Tempered Clavier* which her mother played on their upright piano and drawing his picture in her note book. In her memoires, Idil's mother Leman Biret writes: "After listening for a while to orchestral music on the radio Idil would detect the main melody and then play it on the piano with one finger. Afterwards, when she reached the age of four, she would play these on the piano with two hands and with the correct harmony. Bach preludes and fugues from the *Well Tempered Clavier*, for example, which even the talented musicians took considerable time to study and memorise, were mastered by Idil in only a few days after listening once or twice, after which she would play these without a single wrong note." Then, at the age of four her teacher Mithat Fenmen played for Idil on an 78rpm record by Edwin Fischer the *Prelude and Fugue in F minor* from the *Well Tempered Clavier Book II*. She says that Bach's music has been a part of her life ever since that day. In 1946, at the age of five, she played the *D Minor Piano Concerto* of Bach with a string quartet at the Ankara Radio, a work that would be a staple of her concert programs from then on.

"The remarkable evening began with *D Minor Piano Concerto* of J.S. Bach. The concerto required, from the very first measure, agile, precise dexterity from the pianist. Idil Biret took the challenge with a ravishing pulse which carried one away. How this artist combines the strict discipline of the score with the capacity to build sovereign forms is exemplary. Energetically, she drove the flanking Allegro movements forward and dwelled on the song like beauties of the Adagio with concentrated abandon."

Dietrich Wolf DRESDNER NEUSTE NACHRICHTEN (Germany) 1996

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH (1685-1750) Concertos for 1, 2, 3, 4 Keyboards

[1] - [3]	Concerto in D minor, BWV 1052	Idil Biret	25:34
[4] - [6]	Concerto in C minor, BWV 1060	Idil Biret, Ayşegül Sarıca	15:58
[7] - [9]	Concerto in C major, BWV 1064	Ayşegül Sarıca, Idil Biret, Hande Dalkılıç	18:38
[10] - [12]	Concerto in A minor, BWV 1065	Idil Biret, Ayşegül Sarıca, Hande Dalkılıç, Erol Erdinç	12:54

Bilkent Symphony Orchestra conducted by Gürer Aykal [1-3], Erol Erdinç [4-12]

**In Memoriam - Ayşegül Sarıca, Verda Erman, Herman Miskciyan, Cemal Reşit Rey
Idil Biret's friends, colleagues and partners in performances of the Bach concertos**

Recorded at concerts in the Bilkent University Hall in Ankara 25 December 1998 (Tr 1-3), 12 March 2002 (Tr. 4-12) Recording engineers Engin Aksan (1998), Yalçın Tuğsavul (2002) • Compilation and mastering: Ozan Sarier
• Cover photo: Idil Biret with Nadia Boulanger in Fontainebleau, France 1951 • Cover graphic design: Özcan Göksan • Graphic design and adaptation Ali Ergün • Concept, booklet text preparation: Sefik B. Yüksel



IBA 073

DDD

8.571431

Playing time
73:04



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Booklet notes in English
Made in Germany
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Manufactured by Sonopress
and distributed by **MÄOX**



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