

Saint-Saëns's mature creative genius shines throughout these last two piano concertos, looking back over a glorious musical ancestry while at the same time opening the door to new worlds. The *Fourth Piano Concerto* is prescient of both his great *Organ Symphony* and the concertos of Rachmaninov, revealing Saint-Saëns at his most inspired and innovative. The *Fifth* was composed in the Egyptian temple town of Luxor, and displays a rich tapestry of exotic cultural influences from Javanese, Spanish and Middle Eastern music, as well as portrayals of chirping Nile crickets and croaking frogs, and the composer's representation of 'the joy of a sea crossing'. Volumes 1 and 2 can be heard on 8.573476 and 77.

Camille
SAINT-SAËNS
(1835-1921)

Piano Concerto No. 4 in C minor, Op. 44 (1875) 26:30

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|----------|---|--------------|
| 1 | I. Allegro moderato – Andante | 12:27 |
| 2 | II. Allegro vivace – Andante – Allegro | 14:00 |

**Piano Concerto No. 5 in F major, 'Egyptian',
Op. 103 (1896) 28:46**

- | | | |
|----------|---------------------------|--------------|
| 3 | I. Allegro animato | 11:21 |
| 4 | II. Andante | 10:59 |
| 5 | III. Molto allegro | 6:20 |

**Romain Descharmes, Piano
Malmö Symphony Orchestra • Marc Soustrot**

Recorded: 15–17 June 2015 at Malmö Live Concert Hall, Malmö, Sweden

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NAXOS

8.573478

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Playing Time
55:21



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