

Anton Rubinstein was the equal of Liszt as a pianist and a technically gifted composer but, in his own words, he was perceived by his contemporaries as too German to be Russian and too Russian to be German, and his music was frequently disparaged. Although occasionally derivative, the first two sonatas are impressively bravura and passionate works which pianist Han Chen approaches as if reading a 19th-century Russian novel, digging down to the very essence of the human soul. It is perhaps an irony of the history of taste that Rubinstein's very real achievements are beginning to be valued only some 125 years after his death.

Anton  
**RUBINSTEIN**  
(1829–1894)

**Piano Sonata No. 1 in E minor, Op. 12 (1848–54) 28:45**

1	I. Allegro appassionato	8:42
2	II. Andante largamente	7:05
3	III. Moderato	4:38
4	IV. Moderato con fuoco	8:14

**Three Serenades, Op. 22 (1855) 19:58**

5	No. 1. Andante con moto	5:18
6	No. 2. Moderato	6:41
7	No. 3. Allegretto con moto	7:54

**Piano Sonata No. 2 in C minor, Op. 20 (1848–50) 29:33**

8	I. Allegro con moto	7:50
9	II. Andante: Theme and Variations	11:58
10	III. Vivace	9:41

**Han Chen, Piano**

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Playing Time  
78:27



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