

8.11.2012

CORTOT: HMV Recordings 1931-48

NAXOS Historical



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MADE IN GERMANY



8.11.2012

ADD

ALFRED CORTOT (1877-1962)

1931-1948 Recordings

Playing
Time
76:04

- | | | |
|----|--|--------------|
| | Carl Maria von Weber: Sonata No. 2 in A flat Major, Op. 39 | 23:21 |
| 1 | I Allegro moderato, con spirito ed assai legato | 9:07 |
| 2 | II Andante | 5:51 |
| 3 | III Menuetto capriccioso (Presto assai) and Trio | 3:07 |
| 4 | IV Rondo (Moderato e molto grazioso) | 5:16 |
| | Recorded on 10th March 1939 in EMI Studio No. 3, Abbey Road, London | |
| 5 | Franz Schubert: Ländler, D 790, Op. 171 | 8:56 |
| | Recorded on 19th May 1937, EMI Studio No. 3, Abbey Road, London | |
| | Franz Liszt: Piano Sonata in B minor, S 178 | 25:23 |
| 6 | I Lento assai - Allegro energico | 10:58 |
| 7 | II Andante sostenuto | 5:49 |
| 8 | III Allegro energico | 8:36 |
| | Recorded on 13th March 1939, Small Queen's Hall, London | |
| | Franz Liszt: Légendes, S 175/R 17: | |
| 9 | No. 2 - St François de Paule marchant sur les flots | 7:38 |
| | Recorded on 19th May 1937, EMI Studio No. 3, Abbey Road, London | |
| | Franz Liszt: Études de concert, S 144: | |
| 10 | No. 2 - La leggerezza | 4:27 |
| | Recorded on 13th May 1931, Small Queen's Hall, London | |
| 11 | Franz Schubert (arr. Cortot): Litaneie auf das Fest Aller Seelen, D 343 | 3:39 |
| | Recorded on 19th May 1937, EMI Studio No. 3, Abbey Road, London | |
| 12 | Johannes Brahms (arr. Cortot): Wiegenlied, Op. 49, No. 4 | 2:41 |
| | Recorded on 20th April 1948, EMI Studio No. 3, Abbey Road, London | |

Alfred Cortot was one of the very greatest pianists of the 20th Century, renowned above all for his intuitive, highly personal interpretations of Romantic masterpieces. Drawn from sessions in London between 1931 and 1948, these recordings include a wonderfully poetic reading of Weber's introspective and playful *Second Piano Sonata*, and intense yet subtly nuanced renditions of Liszt's groundbreaking *B minor Sonata*, issued almost entirely from first takes, and *Légende No. 2*. Cortot's own arrangements imbue Schubert's *Litaneie* and Brahms's famous *Lullaby* with a heartfelt touch.

A detailed track list can be found in the booklet.
Producer and Restoration Engineer: Ward Marston
Special thanks: Donald Manildi

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Cover Photograph: Alfred Cortot [Private Collection]



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