

compact disc
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BRAHMS

PIANO CONCERTO No. 1

IN D MINOR, OP. 15

PETER KATIN, PIANO

BBC SCOTTISH ORCHESTRA

CONDUCTED BY IAN WHITE

PRISTINE
AUDIO
XR

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1 1st mvt. - Maestoso (21:42)

2 2nd mvt. - Adagio (14:15)

3 3rd mvt. - Rondo (Allegro non troppo) (11:35)

Live broadcast recording from BBC Glasgow Studios, 2nd June, 1958

Tape transfer from Peter Katin's archive collection by Peter Harrison at disk2disc

XR remastering by Andrew Rose at Pristine Audio, January 2009

Cover artwork based on a photograph of Peter Katin

Total duration: 47:32 ©2009 Pristine Audio.

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KATIN, BBC SCOTTISH ORCHESTRA, WHYTE

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Born in London, Peter Katin's musical talent was evident at the age of four, and he was admitted to the senior department of the Royal Academy of Music when he was twelve, four years before the official age of entry. The success of his Wigmore Hall début in 1948 started him on a career that has taken him throughout the world (he was the first British artist to give a post-war solo tour of the then USSR), and in those earlier years he was greatly influenced by his meetings with Clifford Curzon, Claudio Arrau and Myra Hess, who gave him much advice for which he has always been deeply grateful.

His early successes seemed centred round the classical composers; he was greatly in demand for Mozart concerto performances in particular and he also developed a rare talent for chamber music. However, a performance of Rachmaninov's D minor Concerto in 1953 changed his image almost overnight, and hailed as a virtuoso of the first order he was constantly in demand for the most taxing of romantic concertos until the late sixties, but by that time he decided that he needed to make a more in-depth study of the composers who had almost escaped him when he was immersed in the big major works.

The first composer in this specialised study was Chopin, and since that time he has become regarded as one of the finest interpreters of this composer's music. He was sufficiently encouraged to make similar studies of Schubert, Schumann, Debussy and Liszt, and as a result has given a number of one-composer recitals. His repertoire now is very flexible and he is happy about performing concertos by Mozart, Beethoven and Brahms in one week, while keeping a very wide variety of styles in his recital programmes.

His constant encouragement of the preserving of individuality in young artists has been one factor in the conferral during 1994 of an Honorary Doctorate by De Montfort University, and as a teacher, he has had highly successful years at the Royal Academy of Music, The University of Western Ontario, the Royal College of Music and Thames Valley University.

He has now almost forty recordings, more than at any other time in his career, which have been received with critical superlatives. These include the complete Chopin Nocturnes and Impromptus, Grieg Lyric Pieces, Chopin Waltzes and Polonaises and the Rachmaninov Preludes. A live performance of a recital including the Liszt Sonata was released to a rave review in Classic CD. His interest in period pianos has resulted in three such recordings, as well as an all-Chopin programme on his own Collard & Collard 1836, and another on a Broadwood grand that was used by Chopin on the occasion of his last visit to London.

Peter Katin gave an anniversary recital at Wigmore Hall on 13 December 1998, exactly fifty years from the date of his début, celebrated his seventieth birthday in November 2000, and his seventy-fifth birthday in 2005. His acclaimed recording of the complete Mozart sonatas were reissued by Altara Music in July 2008, a new CD of four Haydn sonatas will be issued later in the year, as will a Chopin recital from Somm Recordings.

NOTES FROM WWW.PETERKATIN.COM - FULL NOTES ON THIS RECORDING CAN BE FOUND AT WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM