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STEREO

BEETHOVEN

PIANO CONCERTOS 1 AND 4

PRISTINE
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BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No. 1 in C major, Op. 15

- 1 1st mvt. - *Allegro con brio* (14:30)
- 2 2nd mvt. - *Largo* (8:44)
- 3 3rd mvt. - *Rondo - Allegro scherzando* (8:51)

Recorded 1st March, 1959

BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No. 4 in G major, Op. 58

- 4 1st mvt. - *Allegro moderato* (16:09)
- 5 2nd mvt. - *Andante con moto* (4:21)
- 6 3rd mvt. - *Rondo - Vivace* (9:13)

Recorded 2nd March, 1959

Cadenzas by Casadesus

Robert Casadesus, piano
The Concertgebouw Orchestra, Amsterdam
conductor **Eduard van Beinum**

Transfers by Andrew Rose from stereo test pressings for Philips LP SABL 118

XR remastering by Andrew Rose at Pristine Audio, September 2010

Cover artwork based on a photograph of Robert Casadesus

Total duration: 61:48 ©2010 Pristine Audio.

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ROBERT CASADESUS

BEETHOVEN PIANO CONCERTOS 1 AND 4

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THE CONCERTGEBOUW ORCHESTRA
CONDUCTOR **EDUARD VAN BEINUM**
STEREO STUDIO RECORDINGS FROM 1959

BEETHOVEN

PIANO CONCERTOS 1 AND 4

Robert Casadesus (April 7, 1899 in Paris – September 19, 1972 in Paris) was a renowned 20th-century French pianist and composer. He was the most prominent member of a famous musical family, being the nephew of Henri Casadesus and Marius Casadesus, husband of Gaby Casadesus, and father of Jean Casadesus.

Robert Casadesus was born in Paris and studied there at the Conservatoire with Louis Diémer, taking a Premier Prix (First Prize) in 1913 and the Prix Diémer in 1920. Robert then entered the class of Lucien Capet, who had exceptional influence. Capet had founded a famous quartet that bore his name (Capet Quartet) and in which two of Robert's uncles played: Henri and Marcel. The Quartet often rehearsed in the Casadesus home, and so it was that Robert was initiated into chamber music. The Beethoven Quartets held no secret for him—he knew them backwards and forwards without ever having played them!

Beginning in 1922, Casadesus collaborated with the composer Maurice Ravel on a project to create piano rolls of a number of his works. Casadesus and Ravel also shared the concert platform in France, Spain and England.

Casadesus toured widely as a piano soloist. He often performed with his wife, the pianist Gaby, whom he married in 1921.

From 1935 Casadesus taught at the American Conservatory at Fontainebleau. He and his family spent the Second World War years in the United States. They had a home in Princeton, New Jersey. He taught a notable group of future piano performers from all over Europe and the United States, including Claude Helffer and Monique Haas.

His style of playing was classical and restrained with a very delicate approach to melody and line. He is especially noted as an interpreter of Mozart. Among his other recordings are those of the music of Ravel, and the Beethoven Violin Sonatas with Zino Francescatti (of which the Kreutzer Sonata was filmed and has been released on DVD).

Casadesus was joined by his wife Gaby and their son Jean in performances of Mozart's concertos for 2 and 3 pianos. They recorded these works with the Columbia Symphony and Cleveland Orchestras conducted by George Szell as well as with the Philadelphia Orchestra conducted by Eugene Ormandy.

Eduard van Beinum (September 3, 1901 – April 13, 1959, Amsterdam) was a Dutch conductor. Van Beinum was the conductor of the Haarlem Orchestral Society from 1927 to 1931. He first conducted the Concertgebouw Orchestra, Amsterdam in 1929. He became second conductor of the Concertgebouw Orchestra in 1931, under the supervision of Willem Mengelberg. In 1938 he was named co-principal conductor, alongside Mengelberg. After World War II, Mengelberg was dismissed as principal conductor because of controversy over his (still-disputed) behavior and attitude towards the Nazi occupiers in the Netherlands. Van Beinum remained as sole principal conductor of the orchestra after the war. The two Beethoven piano concertos presented here were van Beinum's last commercial recordings - he suffered a fatal heart attack on April 13, 1959 on the Concertgebouw podium while rehearsing the orchestra for a performance of Johannes Brahms' Symphony No. 1.

NOTES FROM WIKIPEDIA - FURTHER NOTES ONLINE AT WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM