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# Rubinstein Chopin Piano Concertos

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Rubinstein's previous recording of Chopin's *E minor* Concerto was spoilt by poor quality, and it is a pleasure to report that this great artist has now been recorded as he deserves. He is a little too near the microphone in the stereo version, but you soon get used to it, and the balance on the mono seems better. But piano and orchestra sound fuller and rounder on the stereo although personally I would be very happy to have either. Rubinstein's is an exceptional performance. He spreads himself rather more than before, taking his time, brooding on phrases that take his fancy in that wonderful improvisatory way of his, and playing the whole work with such affection and style that you think it one of Chopin's loveliest inventions. Which perhaps it is. The slow movement is a marvel of sensitivity, and there is plenty of brilliance in the finale.

R.F., *The Gramophone*, March 1962 - excerpts from review of *Concerto No. 1*

What makes it outstanding is, of course, Rubinstein's performance. In the quick movements his playing has an almost slap-dash quality which is endearing and stems from his rhapsodic approach to the music. You listen to every bar, held by the wonderful piano writing, wonderful because Rubinstein makes it so. In the dramatic middle section of the slow movement he brings a tension to the music such as I have not heard before. The result is wonderfully exciting. This is a really superb account of this lovely music.

R.F., *The Gramophone*, March 1960 - excerpt from review of *Concerto No. 2*

Arthur Rubinstein is of course associated with the music of Chopin perhaps more than any other pianist of the recorded era, and it's instructive perhaps to note that in both of the reviews quoted here, whilst the orchestral performances are given modest credit, it is the playing of Rubinstein which consistently receives high praise.

These new 32-bit XR remastered transfers have addressed a number of issues in what were very well made recordings for their era. Some pitch anomalies, where different takes have been cut together, have been corrected, and minor tape pitch drift and flutter issues solved. The Gramophone reviewer noted an overly-dry sound to the earlier of the two recordings and a "tinny" sound to the piano; XR re-equalisation has dealt with the latter, whilst a very gentle application of the acoustics of one of the world's finest symphony halls has ameliorated the former. This, together with a careful rebalancing of the upper and lowest frequencies has served to bring a sense of air and dimension to the recording that was at times in somewhat short supply. Overall, then, these two fine recordings have never sounded so good! A.R.

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# Rubinstein Chopin Piano Concertos

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**Piano Concerto No. 1 in E minor, Op. 11**

*New Symphony Orchestra of London/Skrowaszewski, 1961*

**Piano Concerto No. 2 in F minor, Op. 21**

*Symphony of the Air/Wallenstein, 1958*

**Stereo studio recordings**

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XR remastering by  
**Andrew Rose**

Cover artwork based on  
a photograph of  
**Arthur Rubinstein**

**Concerto No. 1**

Recorded June 8/9, 1961  
Walthamstow Town Hall, London  
Issued in the UK as RCA SB 2145  
Producer: Max Wilcox  
Engineer: Kenneth Wilkinson

**Concerto No. 2**

Recorded 20 January 1958  
Carnegie Hall, New York  
Issued in the UK as RCA SB 2087  
Producer: John Pfeiffer  
Engineer: Lewis Layton

Total duration: **71:29**

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RUBINSTEIN PLAYS THE CHOPIN PIANO CONCERTOS  
RUBINSTEIN, NSOL/SKROWACZEWSKI, SOA/WALLENSTEIN

## Rubinstein plays Chopin

### Piano Concerto No. 1 in E minor, Op. 11

- 1 1st mvt. - Allegro maestoso (19:55)
- 2 2nd mvt. - Romanze Larghetto (10:55)
- 3 3rd mvt. - Rondo vivace (10:22)

**New Symphony Orchestra of London**  
Stanislaw Skrowaczewski conductor

### Piano Concerto No. 2 in F minor, Op. 21

- 4 1st mvt. - Maestoso (13:25)
- 5 2nd mvt. - Larghetto (8:42)
- 6 3rd mvt. - Allegro vivace (8:10)

**Symphony of the Air**  
Alfred Wallenstein conductor

**Arthur Rubinstein piano**

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