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DINU LIPATTI

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Chopin: Piano Concerto No. 1, Sonata No. 3

The reader who, in the March *Gramophone*, deplored the removal from the catalogues of all recordings of Chopin's *B minor Sonata* will be a happy man this month, for the Roumanian pianist Dinu Lipatti has given us a most lovely recording of the work. Here, at last, is a pianist who with plenty of power in his fingers, prefers to interpret the music by understatement and allows us to feel he has reserves of power and emotion upon which he could draw. The result is a performance of great lyrical beauty, of contemplation as well as drama, and never a moment when one feels the player is thinking "this is rather a dull bit, I must do something to it." Lipatti is concerned to do only what Chopin has written and what true musicianship dictates. This musicianship keeps *rubato* well in check: and it is used with the economy of the actor who never makes an unnecessary gesture.

The first movement sounds what it is, a free fantasia; the light parts of the Scherzo are done with a light feathery touch of the greatest delicacy, and the long, slow movement is full of the intimate feeling and spaciousness it demands. The moulding of the phrases leading back to the main tune is one of many lovely points of detail. Lovely, too, are the florid scale passages, kept perfectly in perspective, of the finale, for which movement a just speed is adopted.

The piano tone is excellent and the many lyrical passages really sing. A truly admirable recording, therefore, from all points of view.

Review by A.R., *The Gramophone*, May 1947

Producer's Note

The untimely death in 1950 of pianist Dinu Lipatti, struck down with cancer at the age of 33, robbed the world of one of the great pianists of the century. His few recordings were largely made between 1947 and 1950 and thus fall into that tight time period where truly high fidelity recording was beginning to emerge from the restrictions of the 78rpm era. Extracting the most from these recordings today is not a simple matter - the *Sonata* here was cut directly to 78rpm disc, and much work has been undertaken here to cut wow and flutter, reduce surface noise, and above all bring out the full, rich tone of the instrument, something that's barely apparent on many previous transfers. The *Concerto* comes from a 1950 broadcast recording that emerged after EMI had inadvertently issued a fake of the same work under Lipatti's name. It too has suffered in the past from poor sound quality - the review of one previous issue in *Fanfare* magazine included the following lines: "The sound is awful: no matter what volume I set it at, it sounds too loud. The playing is sublime. I am certainly glad to have heard even the first notes of Lipatti's entrance in the second movement. Hearing those limpid phrases, one forgets for a moment the distorted sound..." Happily this is most certainly not the case in this new, XR-remastered edition! **Andrew Rose**

FULL PROGRAMME NOTES CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM
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Dinu Lipatti plays Chopin



Piano Concerto No. 1
Piano Sonata No. 3

Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich
Otto Ackerman, conductor

Studio and Live Recordings 1947/50

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XR remastering by Andrew Rose

Cover artwork based on a
photograph of Dinu Lipatti

Chopin Piano Concerto No. 1
Recorded 7 February 1950
Live at Tonhalle, Zürich

Chopin Piano Sonata No. 3
Recorded 1 & 4 March, 1947
Abbey Road Studio 3
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Engineer: Douglas Larter
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DINU LIPATTI *plays* Chopin

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

- 1 1st mvt. - Allegro maestoso (17:37)
- 2 2nd mvt. - Romanze - Larghetto (9:45)
- 3 3rd mvt. - Rondo - Vivace (9:32)

Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich *Otto Ackerman*

Piano Sonata No. 3 in B minor, Op. 58

- 1 1st mvt. - Allegro maestoso (8:49)
- 2 2nd mvt. - Scherzo: Molto vivace (2:30)
- 3 3rd mvt. - Largo (8:49)
- 4 4th mvt. - Finale: Presto non tanto; Agitato (4:46)

Dinu Lipatti *piano*