

Perfect Pitch

a musical journey

Chopin – 200th Anniversary



A Celebration!

Composer of the Month
March 2010

Frédéric Chopin – 200th Anniversary

This month we celebrate the music of Chopin, (1810-1949), arguably one of the finest composers of the Romantic era. Called the poet of the piano, Chopin composed almost exclusively for the piano.

The son of a Polish mother and French father, Chopin grew up in Warsaw. As a boy, he played for the Polish aristocracy, and after he graduated from the Warsaw Conservatory, he toured extensively all over Europe. At 21, he arrived in Paris, and remained there for the rest of his short life. At that time, Paris in the 1830's was the center of romanticism and was the artistic capital of Europe. There, Chopin gained great fame and fortune by performing in the aristocratic circles of Paris.

As a person, Chopin was a shy, reserved man who disliked crowds and preferred to play in salons rather than in large public concert halls. It was at these intimate gatherings where he would play his compositions like nocturnes, preludes, and waltzes. Not only can his music be described as elegant and graceful, it is highly expressive, and evokes an infinite variety of different moods.

Chopin's profound love for his country (Poland) featured prominently in his music as well: using stylized Polish dances such as mazurkas and polonaises as a foundation for many of his works.

Come and sample our choice selection of Chopin recordings performed by world-renowned pianists.

CD 786.44 C549p

4 scherzi & Polonaise-fantaisie op. 61
(Claudio Arrau, piano)

CD 786.44 C549ma

51 mazurkas & 4 scherzos
(Anton Rubenstein, piano)

CD 786.4 C549y

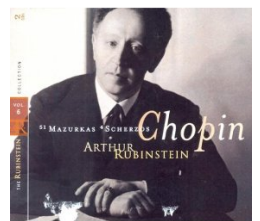
Chopin
(Yundi Li, piano)

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Ballades; Scherzos
(Vladimir Ashkenazy, piano)

CD 786.42 C549i

The Chopin collection: the impromptus
(Artur Rubinstein, piano)



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Piano concerto no. 1 in E minor, op. 11; Ballade no. 1 in G minor, op. 23; Nocturne no. 4 in F major, op. 15 no. 1; Nocturne no. 5 in F sharp major, op. 15 no. 2; Polonaise no. 6 in A flat major, op.15: "Heroic"
(Maurizio Pollini, piano)

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The Chopin collection: the mazurkas
(Artur Rubinstein, piano)



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Piano concertos nos. 1 & 2
(Martha Argerich, piano)

CD 785.6 C549k

Konzert für Klavier und Orchester No. 1 op. 11; Konzert für Klavier und Orchester No. 2, op. 21
(Krystian Zimerman, piano)

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The piano concertos
(Lang Lang, piano)

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Konzert für klavier und orchester no.1 op. 11; No. 2 op. 21
(Tamás Vásáry, piano)



CD 786.47 C549e

Etudes op. 10; Etudes op. 25
(Maurizio Pollini, piano)

CD 786.42 C549

Impromptus; Fantaisie, op. 49; Barcarolle; Berceuse
(Murray Perahia, piano)

CD 786.43 C549n

Nocturnes, selections
(Daniel Barenboim, piano)

CD 782.85 P581

The pianist
(Wladislaw Szpilman, piano)



CD 786.44 C549v

Valses
(Alexandre Tharaud, piano)



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