88697-08283-2

LIVING STEREO

SUPER AUDIO CD

SCHUMANN CONCERTO in A Minor
BEETHOVEN "EMPEROR" CONCERTO

CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

VAN CLIBURN / FRITZ REINER

ROBERT SCHUMANN *(1810–1856)*
Piano Concerto in A Minor, Op. 54

1 Allegro affettuoso 15:16
2 Intermezzo: Andantino grazioso 5:16
3 Allegro vivace 10:11
(Recorded April 16, 1960)

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN *(1770–1827)*
Piano Concerto No. 5 in E-Flat, Op. 73 "Emperor"

4 Allegro 20:09
5 Adagio un poco mosso 7:58
6 Rondo: Allegro 10:01
(Recorded May 4 & 12, 1961)

Van Cliburn, *piano*
Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Fritz Reiner, *conductor*
(Recorded Orchestra Hall, Chicago)

Produced by Richard Mohr
Recording Engineer: Lewis Layton
Mastering Engineer: Mark Donahue
DSD Engineer: Dirk Sobotka
Remastering Supervisor: John Newton
Project Direction & Research: David Foil

Editorial Direction: Elizabeth A. Wright
Design: Red Herring Design
Photography: Sara Foldenauer

These were original three-track recordings; in Super Audio CD multi-channel mode, the music will be heard only from the front left, center and right channels.

For more information about Living Stereo and other Living Stereo Super Audio CDs, please visit: http://livingstereo.masterworksseries.com/

"To know Cliburn's playing at all is to suspect that he is the right man for the Schumann Concerto. He has the big, surging warmth for it, the enkindling imagination, the ranging technique, and the cresting wealth of tone to soar over the orchestra when the time comes. This was extraordinary Schumann in the grand manner, with the orchestra playing superbly and Mr. Reiner's direction that of a master."

— *Claudia Cassidy*
Music Critic, Chicago Tribune

This recording of the Schumann Concerto was made in Orchestra Hall, Chicago, in April 1960, soon after Van Cliburn's first series of public appearances as guest soloist with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Fritz Reiner.

A studio recording that recreates in exacting detail the public concert described by Miss Cassidy, it also marks Mr. Cliburn's first collaboration on records with the orchestra and its distinguished conductor.

The concerto was composed by Robert Schumann over a period of five years commencing in 1841. In that year the first movement appeared under the title of *Fantasia in A Minor*. Four years later Schumann retitled the *Fantasia* as the first movement and added two other movements. The concerto was performed for the first time in its entirety in 1845 from manuscript, with the composer's wife, Clara Wieck Schumann, as soloist.

It is a magnificently integrated composition, with the orchestra and piano so closely woven into the musical texture that neither would be complete without the other.

Deems Taylor has described it as a work calling for exquisite beauty of tone and subtle attention to detail. "Today," says Mr. Taylor, "the A Minor Concerto sings as freshly and beautifully as it did 115 years ago – a great and enduring work of art."

NOTES BY JOHN N. BURK *(1961)*
AUTHOR OF THE LIFE AND WORKS OF BEETHOVEN

Beethoven's Fifth Concerto – the *Emperor* – is the most imposing member of an illustrious company. *Emperor*, however, was not the composer's title for his last piano concerto. Such posthumous titles, if not authentic, are convenient, and this one can be called appropriate if taken in the sense of the "majestic," the willful, imperious and expansive Beethoven. E-flat major was to Beethoven a heroic key by the evidence of the *Eroica* Symphony, which has something of the same proud spirit. Beethoven seems to have been possessed by this tonality in 1809, the year of the Concerto, for the Piano Sonata, Op. 81a, and the so-called *Harp* Quartet, Op. 74, both in E-flat, were also composed in this year. It was a year of war; French troops occupied Vienna, and the Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte made his headquarters in the Palace of Schönbrunn. These outward events had no effect upon the artist Beethoven and his seclusive domain of tones, except to annoy him and impede his work.

The *Emperor* is a striking case of the casual attention so often given by first audiences to music prized by later generations as of monumental importance. Beethoven's symphonies when first performed in public disturbed or bored more people than they pleased, and were usually passed over without a second thought. The Fifth Concerto had its Viennese première on February 12, 1812. It was reported a "failure," and since the soloist was Beethoven's able pupil Karl Czerny the failure lay with the audience – the "Society of Noble Ladies for Charity" – who probably had no sense whatever of the import of the piece. The concert was a miscellaneous program of vocal numbers interspersed with living tableaux which were undoubtedly the feature of the evening.

What those worthy people probably looked for in the new concerto was the hard glitter of passage work which was then pianistic currency, and when the music produced something less than this degree of showy brilliance, they dismissed it without the least suspicion that true power, deep feeling and newly expressive piano figures were being unfolded before them. They failed to understand that Beethoven, accepting the style that custom had dictated to him, had transformed it into something quite different, had written his signature into every measure.

THE HISTORY OF LIVING STEREO

On October 6, 1953, RCA Victor made its first experimental "binaural" recordings. At New York's Manhattan Center, Leopold Stokowski conducted a pick-up orchestra in Enesco's *Roumanian Rhapsody No. 1* and Tchaikovsky's Waltz from *Eugene Onegin*. In December RCA continued stereo tests in Manhattan Center with Pierre Monteux and members of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Then, in February 1954, RCA took equipment to Boston's Symphony Hall, where Charles Munch and the Boston Symphony were recording Berlioz's *The Damnation of Faust*. For the first time, RCA engineers captured the performance on both mono and two-track tape. These experiments, combined with further technological refinements employed in Chicago's Orchestra Hall in March 1954, were the first forays into the world of stereo.

At the time that RCA initiated multi-track sessions, disc mastering and consumer playback technology were monaural. RCA Victor proceeded to use two- and three-track equipment to record the world's greatest artists—Heifetz, Piatigorsky, Reiner, Munch, Rubinstein, Fiedler—in anticipation that home technology would catch up to stereo sound. Finally, in 1955, 1/4'' 7 1/2ips stereophonic tape players arrived on the consumer market, and RCA released its first Stereo Orthophonic tapes.

Stereo Orthophonic tapes redefined high fidelity. In 1958, the Western Electric Company produced the breakthrough Westrex stereo disc cutter, thereby revolutionizing master disc production. Stereo playback equipment was developed to coincide with the new disc cutting technology. The same year, Living Stereo LP records were launched, ushering in the golden age of stereo high fidelity.

RCA Victor's first two-track sessions in late 1953 and early 1954 were captured on proprietary RCA RT-21 1/4" 30ips tape machines, wired to a pair of mono mixers, each dedicated to one tape track. Neumann U 47 cardioid and M-49/50 omnidirectional microphones were favored, as were RCA-designed LC-1A 15" duo-cone speakers in the control room. Three-track recordings were realized on tube amplifier Ampex 300-3 1/2" machines running at 15ips and in later years at 30ips, and were mixed down to 1/4" two-track masters. No equalization was used in the original tracking process; the microphone signals were summed through passive electronics and printed straight to tape. In addition, no equalization was used to alter playback takes for artist approval.

TECHNICAL NOTES

JOHN NEWTON, SOUNDMIRROR INC.

Since the earliest days of recording, engineers have strived to make recorded sound as immediate and thrilling as natural sound. The earliest electrical recordings were made with a single microphone positioned in the hall for optimum balance. The signal was fed to a cutting lathe, and with the advent of magnetic recording, to a monaural tape recorder; a copy of that tape was used to produce the LPs which consumers listened to at home.

With stereo, two microphones were placed in the hall. Signals were fed to a stereo tape recorder and consumers, listening back on two speakers, heard a new "depth" of sound. By placing microphones in the left, center, and right of the hall, engineers progressed to 3-channel recordings, which afforded them greater control over the musical balances that ended up in the stereo mix. Even as CDs replaced LPs, this same process was often followed.

Today, with the advent of Super Audio CD and multi-channel playback, the listener can hear the left, center, and right channels exactly as the engineers heard them at the original recording sessions. In this series of Living Stereo reissues on hybrid Super Audio CDs, we have used the 3-channel original tapes whenever they existed; when the material was recorded only in stereo, we used that tape. Some of the Super Audio CDs will therefore contain 2-channel, or a combination of 2- and 3-channel material. We used only two or three of the available six channels on the Super Audio CD disc because that was the vision of the original producers.

In remastering these tapes, we kept the signal path as short as possible. A Studer-Aria analog tape recorder was connected with premium Siltech cabling directly to specifically chosen dCS converters. This DSD data is directly encoded on the Super Audio CD. Thus the listener is able to hear the output of these converters exactly as we heard it in the studio. The DSD program is essentially identical to the analog tape. What you hear are faithful copies of each historic recording — the pure performance, presented in its original splendor. No signal processing was necessary to "improve" these extra-ordinary tapes.

Throughout this very exciting project, history came alive as we heard the voices of legendary engineers verbally slating the tapes with the location and date of each session. We were greatly impressed not only with how little the original tapes were edited, but how skillfully engineers edited with their high-tech tool of the day, namely, a razor blade! Applying the best in 21st-century remastering technology, we believe we have done justice to the best in 20th-century recording technology for a new generation of listeners.

TECHNISCHE ANMERKUNGEN

JOHN NEWTON, SOUNDMIRROR INC.

Seit Beginn der Aufnahmetechnologie streben Tontechniker danach, den Klang der Aufnahme so unmittelbar und ergreifend zu erzeugen, wie der natürliche Klang selbst. Die frühesten elektronischen Aufnahmen wurden mit einem einzigen Mikrophon durchgeführt, das in der Mitte des Aufnahmesaals positioniert war, um eine optimal ausgewogene Balance zu erzeugen. Das Signal wurde zu einer Schnittmaschine, und nach der Einführung von magnetischen Aufnahmen zu einer Bandmaschine geleitet. Eine Kopie dieses Bandes wurde dann für die Produktion der LPs verwendet, welche die Käufer zuhause abspielten.

Seit dem Stereozeitalter wurden zwei Mikrophone im Aufnahmesaal platziert. Die Signale wurden zu einer Stereobandmaschine geleitet, und die Konsumenten, die die LP auf zwei Lautsprechern abspielten, bekamen einen neuen Eindruck der „Tiefe" des Klanges. Durch eine Anordnung der Mikrophone links, mittig und rechts im Aufnahmesaal, gelangten die Tontechniker zu 3-Kanal Aufnahmen. Diese erlaubten ihnen eine größere Kontrolle über die musikalische Balance, was im Stereo Mix aufging. Noch als CDs die LPs ersetzten, wurde dieses Verfahren oft verwendet.

Heute, seit der Einführung der Super Audio CD und Multi-Kanal Wiedergabe, kann der Konsument den linken, mittleren und rechten Kanal exakt so wahrnehmen und hören, wie der Tontechniker sie während der ursprünglichen Aufnahmesitzung gehört hat. Für diese Serie von Living Stereo Wiederveröffentlichungen auf hybrid Super Audio CDs haben wir die originalen 3-Kanal Bänder verwendet, wann immer diese existent waren. Sofern nur in Stereo aufgenommen wurde, haben wir diese Bänder verwendet. Deshalb enthalten einige dieser Super Audio CDs nur 2-Kanal oder eine Kombination aus 2-Kanal und 3-Kanal Aufnahmen. Wir haben darum auch nur zwei oder drei der sechs auf einer Super Audio CD verfügbaren Kanäle benutzt, da dies die Vision der ursprünglichen Produzenten war.

Während des Remastering Prozesses dieser Bänder haben wir den Weg des Signals so kurz wie möglich gehalten. Eine analoge Studer-Aria Bandmaschine wurde durch hochwertige Siltech Kabel direkt mit speziell ausgewählten dCS Konvertern verbunden. Dieses DSD Datenmaterial wurde direkt auf die Super Audio CD kodiert. Dadurch ist der Konsument in der Lage, das Ergebnis dieser Konverter exakt so zu hören, wie wir es im Studio gehört haben. Das DSD Programm ist im Wesentlichen identisch mit den analogen Originalbändern. Was Sie hören sind genaue Kopien von jeder der historischen Aufnahmen—die pure Aufführung, präsentiert in ihrem ursprünglichen Glanz. Keine Aufbereitung der Signale war erforderlich, um diese herausragenden Bänder zu „verbessern".

Im Verlauf dieses außerordentlich reizvollen Projekts wurde Geschichte lebendig, während wir die Stimmen legendärer Tontechniker gehört haben, wie sie den Ort und das Datum der jeweiligen Aufnahmesitzung auf die Bänder gesprochen haben. Wir waren höchst beeindruckt, nicht nur darüber wie wenig die Originalbänder bearbeitet worden waren, sondern auch wie gekonnt die Tontechniker mit dem High-Tech Gerät ihrer Tage gearbeitet haben: einer Rasierklinge! Für eine neue Generation von Hörern glauben wir der Aufnahme-technologie des 20. Jahrhunderts gerecht geworden zu sein, unter Verwendung der besten Remastering Technologie des 21. Jahrhunderts.

NOTE TECHNIQUE

JOHN NEWTON, SOUNDMIRROR INC.

Depuis les tout débuts de l'enregistrement discographique, les ingénieurs rivalisent d'efforts pour que le son enregistré soit aussi immédiat et électrisant que le son naturel. Les premiers enregistrements électriques étaient réalisés avec un seul micro placé dans la salle pour une balance optimale. Le signal était transmis à un graveur, et, avec l'avènement de l'enregistrement magnétique, à un magnétophone monophonique ; une copie de cette bande magnétique était utilisée pour produire les microsillons que le consommateur écoutait chez lui.

Pour la stéréophonie, on a installé deux microphones dans la salle. Les signaux étaient transmis à un magnétophone stéréophonique, ce qui conférait un nouveau « relief » sonore à l'enregistrement écouté par le consommateur sur ses deux haut-parleurs. En positionnant des micros à gauche, au milieu et à droite de la salle, les ingénieurs ont évolué vers un enregistrement à trois canaux leur assurant un meilleur contrôle de l'équilibre musical du mixage stéréophonique final. Ce procédé a souvent continué à être utilisé alors même que le CD remplaçait progressivement le disque noir.

Aujourd'hui, avec l'avènement du Super Audio CD et de la restitution multicanaux, l'auditeur entend les canaux gauche, central et droite exactement comme les entendaient les ingénieurs lors des séances d'enregistrement originales. Dans cette collection de rééditions « Living Stereo » sur Super Audio CD hybrides, nous avons utilisé les bandes originales à trois canaux chaque fois qu'elles existaient ; lorsque le matériau n'était enregistré qu'en stéréophonie, c'est cette bande que nous avons utilisée. Certains de ces Super Audio CD contiennent donc des enregistrements à deux canaux, ou une combinaison de matériau à deux et trois canaux. Nous n'avons utilisé que deux ou trois des six canaux disponibles sur les Super Audio CD, car telle était la conception des producteurs de l'époque.

Lors du rematriçage des ces enregistrements, nous avons veillé à ce que le parcours du signal soit aussi court que possible. Nous avons directement connecté un magnétophone analogique Studer-Aria à des convertisseurs dCS spécifiquement choisis, au moyen de câbles Siltech haut de gamme. Ce matériau DSD est encodé directement sur le Super Audio CD. L'auditeur peut ainsi entendre la sortie de ces convertisseurs exactement telle que nous l'avons entendue en studio. Le flux DSD est essentiellement identique à la bande analogique. Ce que vous entendez est une copie fidèle de chacun des enregistrements historiques : l'interprétation à l'état pur, présentée dans sa splendeur originelle. Aucun traitement du signal n'a été nécessaire pour « améliorer » ces bandes extraordinaires.

Tout au long de ce projet enthousiasmant, l'histoire est redevenue vivante pour nous grâce à la voix de ces ingénieurs de légende repérant verbalement les bandes en indiquant le lieu et la date de chaque séance d'enregistrement. Nous avons été très impressionnés non seulement par le petit nombre d'interventions sur les bandes originales, mais aussi par le talent avec lequel ces ingénieurs réalisaient le montage nécessaire à l'aide de l'outil de pointe de l'époque : la lame de rasoir ! Utilisant le meilleur de la technologie de mixage numérique du XXIe siècle, nous pensons avoir rendu justice au meilleur de la technologie d'enregistrement du XXe siècle pour une nouvelle génération d'auditeurs.