



Edition Géza Anda (I) – Mozart

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Gramophone (Jed Distler - 01.09.2008)

GRAMOPHONE

Anda retrieved from the archives in mostly strong Mozart performances

The four Mozart concerto performances selected for the first in a multi-volume Géza Anda "DR broadcast retrospective" differ enough from the pianist's well known DG counterparts to interest collectors. In the Romance of the D minor Concerto, K466, Anda's ritards at cadences are more pronounced, while the outer movements' turbulent passages transpire with greater assertion, dynamism and, at times, aggression. What is more, the Cologne Radio Orchestra appears more sensitised to Anda's direction from the keyboard than their Salzburg counterparts in the same work. The strings boast more tonal agility, together with superior woodwind intonation all around. Under Constantin Silvestri's strong leadership, the same orchestra shares the spotlight for a pungently characterised E flat Concerto, K482, highlighted by a brisk and angular Rondo. A January 1962 broadcast preserves Anda and the Camerata Academica Salzburg interacting on top form in the A major Concerto, K488 (the Allegro assai's woodwind conversations truly sparkle), as well as their lean and limber account of the C major Symphony, K200. In this context, a 1956 C major K467 concerto makes a relatively four-square and uneventful impression in comparison to more dramatic and colourfully inflected interpretations of similar vintage (Serkin/Schneider, Giesecking/Cantelli). As with his later DG recording, Anda does not preface his entry in the finale with the expected flourish, although he plays his tasteful cadenzas with plenty of flair and style. These well preserved broadcasts reflect WDR's high engineering standards. I look forward to further volumes.