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Music Minus One Piano: Rachmaninov Concerto No. 2 In C Minor, Op. 18 (Sheet Music And 2 CD Set)



Synopsis

Equally renowned as composer and pianist, Rachmaninov dazzled the world with his piano concerto in C minor. It is immensely popular to this day. Brilliant and powerful with the beautiful lyric theme that became the popular song "Full Moon" and "Empty Arms," it is here presented in a lovely recording, sans your part, the solo piano. This deluxe 2-CD set includes a luxuriant 96-page, newly engraved score, plus a second slow-tempo practice accompaniment to help you get up to speed. The digital stereo compact disc features a complete performance of the concerto with orchestra and soloist, and a second performance minus you, the soloist; and the second compact disc contains a full-speed version of the complete version as well as a special -12% slow-tempo version of the accompaniment for practice purposes. The concerto is voluminously indexed for your practice and performance convenience.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Helping educate musicians since 1950, Music Minus One provides performers at every skill level, an easy way to study, rehearse and perform with professional musicians in the comfort of their own homes. Offering compact discs with accompanying solo music parts from world-renowned soloists, Music Minus One albums offer a superb practice experience. We have assembled some of the most sought-after concert-pieces and duets in the easier repertoire, both with piano and with orchestral accompaniments. Yes, student level recordings also exist in our catalog, for beginners on all instruments. Perfect for auditions, contest solos and school performances as well. Imagine the joy of

performing with a full symphony orchestra in your own home? Here's an opportunity only imagined until now for musicians and vocalists everywhere. Yes, we offer opera repertoire as well as the most famous chamber music pieces in this unique and extraordinary catalog we call Music Minus One. Established 1950 and still going strong! Almost one thousand albums!!

None of Music Minus One recordings work well(I have bought a few piano concertos - Rachmaninoff 2, Chopin 1 and Mozart 21). They are impossible to follow. There is one simple reason - the soloist they use plays out of rhythm and with all sorts of rubatos, some very unusual, often slows down, etc, so when the orchestra follows him, it becomes unrhythmic, as well. When one tries to use the orchestral accompaniment tracks, and that is the main reason people buy these, it is very difficult to stay together. It also affects your interpretation and your sense of rhythm, and imposes the soloist's rubatos on you. Additionally, the recording is too soft in soft places, which are hard to hear. Slower tempo CDs suffer from the same issues. I would stay away from this product, and would instead use any recording of the concerto you might already have (in place of an accompanist) - it will work just as well, and probably better. Usually, well-known performers have a great sense of rhythm, which makes it easier to follow. To be fair, the scores included with recordings are good, and the recording quality itself is no problem. You might even enjoy the interpretation of the concertos, if you hear the complete CDs. That is why I am giving it 2 stars overall. Otherwise, for accompanying purposes alone, it should get 0 stars, as the whole point of buying this product is rehearsal/accompaniment. (Reviewed by a concert pianist).P.S. There is one simple fix (if any Music Minus One people are reading) - tell the soloists you hire, that this is a product for rehearsals, and have them play strictly in time (unless the composer asks for a rit. or accel., but even these need to be moderate and clear in order to be followed)!

I am keen on Rachmaninov's 2. Piano Concerto but unfortunately I don't have an orchestra available as so many people. So buying this product is a good way to practice the "whole music" without needing a group of about 35 musicians. I already practiced all the three movements of the concerto for about 1 year and performed it several times with my piano teacher who accompanied me on another piano. You have to be aware of the fact that the music CD with the orchestra part won't adapt to your playing like a person would do it. But you can practice playing with the CD and you will get better although you have to modificate your performance for being synchronised with the CD. So you shouldn't be frustrated if it doesn't work within your first or second test of this CD package. And you should consider buying it once you are ready to play the piece of music by heart.

For me it was absolutely necessary to modificate the tracks of the accompaniment to my individual purposes because otherwise it would have falsified my own interpretation of this beautiful and monumental composition extremely. So I worked on every single minute of the CD tracks with an audio program after I copied them on my computer. Then I made my individual CD. Some parts had to be much faster (especially large parts of the second movement which is way too slow in my opinion what makes it drowsy), some had to be faster. Furthermore I had to put some "taps" as reference points for the beginning of the bars in the silent parts when only the piano plays. That makes sure that you really start to play together at the next entrance of the orchestra. You can use those taps as an orientation for the tempo and you really need that to be synchronised with the orchestra all the time. It is a bit of a pity that the makers of this CD didn't think about doing that themselves. So there is a lot of work to do for you in case that you don't want to adapt your way of playing this piece too much to the style of the CD. The Stuttgart Symphony Orchestra did a really good job providing the raw material for your accompaniment, and it is a blessing for all of those people who admire this concerto like me, but the orchestra of course has its individual way of playing it and had to cope with the fact that they had to record the accompaniment without a soloist. Sometimes their way of interpreting a "ritardando" or a fermata is a bit too extreme or not as expanded as you want it to be, and you can suddenly hear an acceleration which actually shouldn't be there at this point. But if you take it seriously and know how to use a not too sophisticated audio program you are able to extract the high value from this product. The audio quality was not so much changed after I modifed it with the program "Audacity" which was appropriate for this job. Once you did all the work of making it "individual" it is a lot of fun playing it with this Play-Along. If you practiced enough it would be even possible to perform the concerto with the CD accompaniment in front of an audience. If you like. The product can't substitute a real orchestra but it can give you the feeling of how it would be like with an orchestra, and also a lot of fun.

I also have Mozart's 23rd concerto and Chopin's 2nd one. So my comment will summarize common experience of these products. (For some reason I can't review the Mozart Minis One concerto I bought here). The most important drawback of the several similar items I have bought is that the original concerto was performed WITH the pianist who's part was just not included in the final mix. So, the pianist plays own interpretation, freely. In live performance the director points to orchestra when to start or finish, synchronizing both parts. That's understandable. However, it was done once for another pianist, not for YOU and you can not change it. In most cases it's slower or faster than you want to play, especially in cadences. So you need to adjust your style to someone else's one.

Moreover, sometimes you also find sudden accelerando which shall NOT be there according to the scores provided. The some records has defects: In Mozart's 23rd concerto one track (34th track) ends for 1/2 bar earlier for the silent part of the orchestra when piano should play solo. As a summary, the product can provide you with a glimpse of experience of playing with the orchestra, but not give the real pleasure of it. I also emphasize that timing of the record is different than the timing in supplied scores. So it's a bit hard to practice. I bought Rachmaninoff Minus One piano with the discount here on for \$22. I was in the US when I purchased it: in a business trip. The standard delivery to Broomfield, CO took 7 days and costs \$4. So, it was a good deal. The music of Rachmaninoff is GREAT!

A great way to help prepare one for a concert performance or simply to enjoy being a part of making this wonder, immortal music. One of the very best piano concertos ever. The music is divine especially the closing of the second movement.

Notation is wrong, specially 3 movement, it's dozen mistakes over all. The interpretation meets expectations 2 movement too slow and dragging a lot. The phrase briefing busily and tempos arguably. CD for practice purpose only.

As described, but the recording quality is poor (sounds slightly muffled). Also has audible clicks and scratches recorded in with the CD.

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