

## Lang Lang - The Mozart Album (2014)

Written by bluesever

Monday, 11 April 2016 19:08 -

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Piano Concerto No. 24 In C Minor K 491 Cadenza – Lang Lang, Lili Kraus A1 I. Allegro  
A2 II. Larghetto A3 III. Allegretto  
Piano Concerto No. 17 In G Minor K 453 Cadenza – W. A. Mozart  
B1 I. Allegro B2 II. Andante B3 III. Allegretto - Presto  
Piano Sonata No. 5 In G Major K 283 (198h)  
C1 I. Allegro C2 II. Andante C3 III. Presto  
Piano Sonata No. 4 In E-Flat Major K 282 (198g)  
C4 I. Adagio C5 II. Menuetto I - II C6 Allegretto  
Piano Sonata No. 8 In A Minor K 310 (300d)  
D1 I. Allegro Maestoso D2 II. Andante Cantabile Con Espressivo D3 III. Presto D4  
March No. 1 K 408 D5 Konzertstück In F Major K 33b D6 Allegro For Piano In F Major K 1c

Piano Sonaata NO. 11 In A Major K 331  
D7 III. Rondo Alla Turca - Allegretto ("Turkish March")  
Lang Lang – piano Wiener Philharmoniker Nikolaus Harnoncourt – conductor

For this all-Mozart twofer from Sony, piano virtuoso Lang Lang, conductor Nikolaus Harnoncourt, and the Vienna Philharmonic present a program of piano concertos, piano sonatas, and several short solo pieces that give a good sampling of the composer's keyboard output. The roster may provoke some cognitive dissonance, though, because Harnoncourt is best known for historically informed period interpretations of Mozart, while Lang Lang and the Vienna Philharmonic are more associated with a conventional, mainstream performance style. One might expect some compromise between the two camps, yet while the orchestra incorporates some aspects of Classical sound into its playing, it remains a modern orchestra of full size, and Harnoncourt doesn't ask for the tone colors and techniques he would demand of his own Concentus Musicus Wien. For the soloist's part, Lang Lang is rather restrained and sensitive to the character of the music, and apart from some showiness in his cadenzas, he shows less of the ebullience and bravura playing he otherwise shows in Liszt or Rachmaninov. The section of the program devoted to solo piano works is less of a stylistic challenge, but Lang Lang's mannered playing is a matter of taste, and listeners who like a fairly Romantic

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interpretation will like his approach. Others, however, will already know Lang Lang's readings are not historically informed performances and avoid them. ---Blair Sanderson, Rovi

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