



Annie Fischer plays Schumann: Piano Concerto, Op. 54 - Leon Fleisher plays Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 2

aud 95.643

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[American Record Guide](#) (Alan Becker - 2016.05.01)

Many will be familiar with Fischer's 1960 studio recording of the Schumann with Klemperer. This one with Giulini dates from the same year and comes to us from the Lucerne Festival. The performances are similar, though few will be surprised that the sound (particularly the orchestra strings) is better on the studio recording. Still, both are more than acceptable, particularly if you like Fischer's more aggressive way with the concerto.

Fleisher's way with the Beethoven is already well known from the studio set with Szell and the Cleveland Orchestra. That set is one of the marvels of Beethoven performance and has a recording that leaves nothing to be desired. This Beethoven 2 is similar, though few could make claims for its supremacy as an orchestral recording. The ad hoc ensemble plays well for Szell, and the piano sound here is quite good.

Could I recommend purchase of this recording? Well, yes and no. It is certainly a must for admirers of these artists who must have every recording they ever made. No if you already have the studio recordings. Still, I was seduced once again by Fleisher's marvelous playing.