



Robert Schumann & Johannes Brahms: Cello Concerto, Op. 129 & Piano Concerto, Op. 15

aud 95.622

EAN: 4022143956224



[American Record Guide](#) (David Radcliffe - 15.01.2014)

Unlike many off-the-air transcriptions, this concert of 5 March 1963 is of compelling interest. It was part of a radio series devoted to musicians new to Berlin, a category that included the 18-year-old Jacqueline Du Pre, who gives a lithe and strong performance of the Schumann concerto. Her great abilities are already palpably present.

The Argentinean pianist Bruno Leonardo Gelber (b. 1941) is less well known. I imagine that listeners in 1963 might have been able to predict what the future held in store for them, for while Gelber plays with great heart and obviously pleased the Berlin audience, he lacks the last degree of manual dexterity that is so obvious in Du Pre's performance.

The conductor, Gerd Albrecht (b. 1935), was also making his Berlin debut and acquits himself with honors; he would go on to become a politically controversial conductor of the Czech Philharmonic in the 1990s. Setting all the history aside, I believe anyone coming to this recording blind would enjoy the gripping spontaneity one looks for in undiluted concert performances of familiar classics.