Clara Haskil plays Mozart: Piano Concerto K. 466 - Robert Casadesus plays Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 5

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These two concertos recorded at the Lucerne Festival in 1959 and 1957 are a study in contrasts. Mozart's D-minor Concerto was a specialty of Clara Haskil, and while this performance might be described as thoughtful it is finally subverted by Klemperer's dragging tempos. The liner notes describe it as Arcadian; the adjective somnolent also comes to mind.

The Beethoven concerto is another story: Mitropoulos is at his most propulsive (which is saying much), setting Casadesus on fire. His characteristic elegance and tonal beauty is still there, but the notes cascade forth with a most uncharacteristic abandon. While both pianists were well along in years when these recordings were made, Casadesus is altogether more supple.

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