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Turntable

A GOOD BUY IN BEETHOVEN

By Roland Gelatt

This fall the record companies have put forward several new candidates for the concerto best-seller list. The most ambitious of these undertakings is an album containing **Beethoven's Five Piano Concertos** performed by **Artur Rubinstein** and the Symphony of the Air under the Viennese conductor Josef Krips (RCA Victor LM 6702). These records are also available singly, concerto by concerto, but the bargain-minded should note that the album offers five discs for the price of four. No one needs to be told that Rubinstein is a master (indeed, today *the* master) of the grand manner. He catches the heroic note in these concertos with triumphant bravura, and he ripples off the fast movements with marvelous abandon. What I miss in his playing is the full allotment of meditative inwardness reposing in these works which the late Artur Schnabel evoked so well. Schnabel also made recordings of the five Beethoven concertos (RCA Victor LCT 6700) but they date from a period when recorded sound was far less brilliant and ample than today's.