

COMPACT
disc
DIGITAL AUDIO
PACO 094

BRUNO WALTER

conducts Mahler

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Comparisons here begin even before getting as far as the turntable, for it will be seen that this is the first stereo recording on only two sides (the others also having an uncomfortable change-over in the middle of the *Abschied*). Within the first few moments of playing, it becomes apparent that this is by far the best actual recording so far: the Klemperer (awkwardly coupled with the Second Symphony) is dislikeable in quality, the Rosbaud restricted in range, the Kletzki for all its excellences (and they are many) unrealistic in the balance of the voices, the 1951 Walter very good indeed for its age but rather veiled in general. But the chief advantage of this set, as one hears, is the direction of Mahler's disciple and protege Bruno Walter, who conducted the work's premiere exactly half a century ago(!) and made the first recording of it as early as 1936. It is superfluous at this date to speak of Walter's exceptional insight into, and sympathy with, Mahler's thought, and his ability to capture every nuance of his melancholy sensitivity. Although many other conductors perform Mahler, his readings have a peculiar inevitability and authenticity about them, and one has to agree with Philips' claim that this is the great artist's "final refinement of his life-long work". The performance is flexible but shapely, emotional without being over sentimental...

L.S., *The Gramophone*, June 1961
Review of UK LP issue (on Philips ABL3363) - excerpt

Producer's Note

Having conducted the première performance of *Das Lied von der Erde* in Munich on 20 November 1911, some six months after his close friend and long-time musical colleague and mentor, Gustav Mahler's death, all of Bruno Walter's performances and recordings of the work come inevitably with an extra ring of "authenticity". He recorded the work three times, each effectively in a different era of recording technology. The first, made in Vienna in 1936 with Kerstin Thorborg and Charles Kullman (*PASC108*) sits squarely in the 78rpm era, whilst the second, another Viennese production, this time for Decca in 1952 with Kathleen Ferrier and Julius Patzak (*PASC109*), was a star release of the early mono LP era. Here we find him, in his twilight years, in New York - with much improved sonics, and in full true stereo. Yet, as I've found with Walter's other late Columbia recordings, there remains room for considerable improvements in sound quality here; XR remastering this recording has greatly opened out and filled out the sound, lifting a veil from the top end, finding greater warmth and depth at in the bass and lower mid-range, and smoothing out some awkward harmonic peaks in the middle, to deliver a more natural sound from both singers and orchestra. Overall the result is entirely captivating!

Andrew Rose

FULL PROGRAMME NOTES CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM
SARL Pristine Audio, 144 Rue de l'Eglise, 24610 St. Méard de Gurçon, France

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STEREO

WALTER

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Mahler

Das Lied von der Erde

Mildred Miller

Ernst Haefliger

New York Philharmonic Orchestra

STEREO STUDIO RECORDING, 1960

PRISTINE
AUDIO
XR



XR remastering by **Andrew Rose**

Cover artwork based on a
photograph of **Bruno Walter**

MAHLER Das Lied von der Erde
Recorded 18 & 25 April 1960
Manhattan Center, New York City

First US LP issues on Columbia M2L 255
(mono) and M2S 617 (stereo)

First UK LP issues on Philips ABL3368
(mono) and SABL 197 (stereo)

Total duration: **63:40**

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PRISTINE
AUDIO

BRUNO WALTER *conducts Mahler*

MAHLER **Das Lied von der Erde**

- 1 1st mvt. - Das Trinklied vom Jammer der Erde (9:41)
- 2 2nd mvt. - Der Einsame im Herbst (9:59)
- 3 3rd mvt. - Von der Jugend (3:13)
- 4 4th mvt. - Von der Schönheit (6:52)
- 5 5th mvt. - Der Trunkene im Frühling (4:30)
- 6 6th mvt. - Der Abschied (29:25)

Mildred Miller *mezzo-soprano*

Ernst Haefliger *tenor*

New York Philharmonic Orchestra

Bruno Walter *conductor*