

BEETHOVEN

SYMPHONY NO. 8 IN F, OP. 93

NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC-SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

CONDUCTED BY ARTURO TOSCANINI

- 1 Introduction to radio programme (2:26)
- 2 1st mvt. - Allegro vivace e con brio (9:47)
- 3 2nd mvt. - Allegretto scherzando (4:00)
- 4 3rd mvt. - Tempo di menuetto (5:15)
- 5 4th mvt. - Allegro vivace (7:05)

Live radio broadcast recording originally captured on 78rpm acetate discs, 8th March 1936
Restoration and XR remastering by Andrew Rose at Pristine Audio, October 2008
Cover artwork based on a photograph of Arturo Toscanini

Total duration: 28:33 © 2008 Pristine Audio.

NB. The original recording of this concert omits approximately twenty seconds of music during the second movement, lost (it would appear) at a side change of the acetate discs. In order to preserve continuity of playback here we've digitally "aged" a modern recording of this section of the music and blended it seamlessly into the 1936 recording. This involved first matching precisely the pitch, tempo, frequency response and average equalisation curves of the two recordings, then blending in surface noise from elsewhere on the older recording to give the illusion of total continuity of music and replay sound.

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TOSCANINI

BEETHOVEN

SYMPHONY NO. 8 IN F, OP. 93

NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA - 8TH MARCH 1936

PRISTINE
AUDIO

PASC 128

BEETHOVEN: SYMPHONY NO. 8 IN F, OP. 93
TOSCANINI, NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

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COMPACT
disc
DIGITAL AUDIO
PASC128

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The Symphony No. 8 in F Major, Op. 93 is a symphony in four movements composed by Ludwig van Beethoven in 1812. Beethoven fondly referred to it as "*my little Symphony in F*", distinguishing it from his Sixth Symphony, a longer work also in F.

The Eighth Symphony is generally light-hearted, though not lightweight, and in many places is cheerfully loud, with many accented notes. Various passages in the symphony are heard by some listeners to be musical jokes. As with various other Beethoven works such as the Opus 27 piano sonatas, the symphony deviates from Classical tradition in making the last movement the weightiest of the four.

The work was begun in the summer of 1812, immediately after the completion of the Seventh Symphony. At the time Beethoven was 41 years old. As Antony Hopkins has noted, the cheerful mood of the work betrays nothing of the grossly unpleasant events that were taking place in Beethoven's life at the time, which involved his interference in his brother Johann's love life. The work took Beethoven only four months to complete. Unusually, he attached no dedication to the completed work.

The premiere took place on February 27, 1814, at a concert at which the mighty Seventh Symphony (which had been premiered two months earlier) was also played. Beethoven was growing increasingly deaf at the time, but nevertheless led the première. Reportedly, "*the orchestra largely ignored his ungainly gestures and followed the principal violinist instead*".

Critics immediately noted that the Eighth did not reach the heights of its predecessor, launching a long tradition of complaining that Eighth Symphony is not something different (more heroic, more emotive) from what it is. However, many listeners seem to be able to enjoy the symphony anyway, and it appears frequently today on concert programs as well as on recordings. When asked by his pupil Carl Czerny why the Eighth was less popular than the Seventh, Beethoven is said to have replied "*because the Eighth is so much better*."

NB. The second half of this broadcast concert, Beethoven's 9th "Choral" Symphony, which is referred to in the opening comments of the radio announcer on this recording, can be found on the Pristine Audio release PASC117.

NOTES FROM WIKIPEDIA - FULL NOTES ON THIS RECORDING CAN BE FOUND AT WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM