

compact
digital audio
PASC150

BEETHOVEN

SYMPHONY NO 4 IN B FLAT, OP 60

LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

CONDUCTED BY GEORG SOLTI

PRISTINE
AUDIO
XR

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SOLTI

PRISTINE
AUDIO
XR

- 1 1st mvt. - Adagio - Allegro vivace (9:24)
- 2 2nd mvt. - Adagio (10:04)
- 3 3rd mvt. - Allegro vivace and tito (Un poco meno allegro) (4:38)
- 4 4th mvt. - Allegro ma non troppo (6:29)

Recorded c.1950, issued in 1951 as Decca LXT 2564.
Reissued as Ace of Clubs ACL 95 - transferred from this issue

Matrix nos. ARL 593-4B, ARL 594-3B

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Cover artwork based on a photograph of Georg Solti

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disc
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BEETHOVEN: SYMPHONY No 4 in B FLAT, Op 60
Solti, London Philharmonic Orchestra

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Sir Georg Solti, KBE (21 October 1912 – 5 September 1997) was a Hungarian-British orchestral and operatic conductor. Solti was born György Stern in Budapest to a Jewish family, his parents Moricz Stern and Teréz Rosenbaum. His cousin was László Moholy-Nagy, the painter and photographer and co-founder of the Bauhaus. His father Germanized György's name to Georg and changed his family name to Solti, to shield them from antisemitism. He learned the piano but at age 14 heard Erich Kleiber conduct Beethoven's Symphony No. 5 and he decided immediately he wanted to be a conductor. He studied at the Franz Liszt Academy of Music, under Béla Bartók, Zoltán Kodály, Leo Weiner and Ernst von Dohnányi. By 1935 he was gaining recognition as a conductor, and made his debut at the Budapest Opera on 11 March 1938 with *The Marriage of Figaro*, the first time an unconverted Jew had ever conducted there. It was also Solti's last performance there. On that very day, Hitler annexed Austria, and anti-semitism became rife in Hungary under Admiral Miklós Horthy's regime. In 1939, with German invasion imminent, he fled Hungary because of his Jewish ancestry, and moved to Switzerland, where he continued a career as a pianist and won a major piano competition, but had limited opportunities to develop his conducting. He never saw his father again.

After the Second World War, during which his father died of natural causes, Solti was music director of the Bavarian State Orchestra in Munich (where he gave the German premiere of Paul Hindemith's opera *Mathis der Maler*, which had been banned under the Nazi regime) and the Frankfurt Opera (where he gave the German premiere of Alban Berg's *Lulu*). In 1951 he made his debut at the Salzburg Festival conducting Mozart's *Idomeneo*.

In 1960 Solti signed a three-year contract (effective in 1962) to be music director of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, having guest conducted the orchestra in winter concerts in downtown Los Angeles, during the summer at the Hollywood Bowl, and in other Southern California concerts. The orchestra had hoped that Solti would lead the orchestra when it moved into its new home at the still-to-be-completed Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, and he even began to appoint musicians to the orchestra. However, Solti abruptly resigned the position in 1961 without officially taking the post after learning that the Philharmonic board of directors failed to consult him before naming then 26 year-old Zubin Mehta to be assistant conductor of the orchestra. Mehta was subsequently named as music director in Solti's place.

In 1961 Solti became music director at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, serving in that capacity until 1971. There, Solti's bald head and demanding rehearsal style earned him the nickname, "The Screaming Skull" (after the film of the same name). He thereafter spent much of his time in Britain and the United States.

His first marriage to Hedi Oechsli, in 1946, ended in divorce. His second marriage was to Valerie Pitts, a British television presenter whom he met when she was sent to interview him. They had two daughters, Gabrielle and Claudia. In 1972 he was naturalised as a United Kingdom citizen. He had been awarded an honorary Order of the British Empire (KBE) in 1971, and was known as Sir Georg Solti after his naturalisation.

Solti was a great supporter and mentor to many young musicians, including the Hungarian soprano Sylvia Sass, with whom he recorded Mozart's *"Don Giovanni"* and Bartók's *"Bluebeard's Castle"*. In addition, in 1994, Solti directed the "Solti Orchestral Project" at Carnegie Hall, a training workshop for young American musicians.

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