

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

MOZART

Symphony No 35 in D, K385, 'Haffner'

London Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Eduard van Beinum

- 1 1st mvt. - Allegro con spirito (5:20)
- 2 2nd mvt. - Andante (4:53)
- 3 3rd mvt. - Minuetto and Trio (Allegretto) (3:14)
- 4 4th mvt. - Finale: Allegro assai (3:53)

Recorded 1st May, 1950, Kingsway Hall, London, first issued as Decca LXT2334
Reissued as Acc of Clubs ACL66 - transferred from this disc, matrix ARL 4526-1A

Symphony No 40 in G minor, K550

London Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Erich Kleiber

- 5 1st mvt. - Allegro con spirito (5:28)
- 6 2nd mvt. - Andante (7:25)
- 7 3rd mvt. - Minuetto and Trio (4:08)
- 8 4th mvt. - Finale: Presto (4:48)

Recorded 25th April 1949, Kingsway Hall, London, first issued as Decca 78s X448-50, matrices 13455-60
Reissued as Acc of Clubs ACL66 - transferred from this disc, matrix ARL 4524-2A

Piano Concerto No 20 in D minor, K466

Rudolf Serkin, piano

Philadelphia Orchestra, conducted by Eugene Ormandy

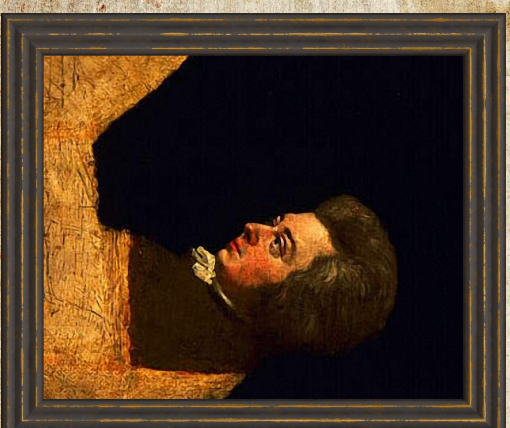
- 9 Piano Concerto No 20 - 1st mvt. - Allegro (cadenza by Beethoven) (12:37)
- 10 2nd mvt. - Romanza (9:04)
- 11 3rd mvt. - Allegro assai (cadenza by Beethoven) (7:07)

Recorded 11th February 1951, Philadelphia, Issued in Europe as Philips 10" LP ABR 4006
Matrix numbers AA01600 1R-13, AA01600 2R-11

Transfers and XR remastering by Andrew Rose at Pristine Audio, March 2009

Cover artwork based on a photograph of Arthur Grannau
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SYMPHONIES NOS 35 AND 40

PIANO CONCERTO No. 20

London Philharmonic Orchestra

Philadelphia Orchestra

Rudolf Serkin, piano

Eduard van Beinum, Erich Kleiber, Eugene Ormandy

RECORDED 1949-1951

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MOZART

COMPACT
disc
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PASC 151

SYMPHONIES NOS. 35 AND 40, PIANO CONCERTO No. 20

This fascinating collection of superb Mozart recordings straddles the very end of the 78rpm era and the birth of the British LP era, which was spearheaded by the Decca Record Company in 1950.

Each of these recordings, in its original state (and as previously digitally reissued) tells a story. The earliest of the three can be heard on LP and CD complete with crackles and clicks, having been originally transferred to master tape from 78rpm disc masters on which it was made (which quite possibly would have then been destroyed). The tonal quality of the recording was rather harsh and strident, and this is what has been heard in subsequent reissues.

The second Decca recording here was taped, and naturally later reissues have no clicks or crackles inherited from the original masters. However, the sound quality remains very similar, in a quite overbearing tonal imbalance which quickly becomes tiring on the ear. It seems Decca were yet to really hit their stride in the production of what was to become a famously high quality series of recordings through the 1950s and onward.

The final recording was far more assured. Although recorded just a few months later, in early 1951, the engineers in Philadelphia clearly knew what they were doing. Tonal balance was excellent, with perhaps just a little boxiness in the lower midrange, and slight roll-off at the top. Unlike the previous two recordings, comparisons of our transfer with the currently available Sony reissue CD will reveal a close sound match - the XR remastering here has opened the sound out slightly, though Sony's master tape was clearly in good condition, allowing for very slightly lower background noise levels.

By contrast, the effect of XR remastering on the earlier two recordings is remarkable, transforming both from rather difficult-to-enjoy vintage recordings to something far more realistic and delightful on the ear. None of the contrasts discussed here with reference to original and previous reissues are now apparent, and all three recordings now have similar sonic characteristics, characterised by a truly life-like high-fidelity tonal balance.

NOTES BY ANDREW ROSE - FULL NOTES ON THIS RECORDING CAN BE FOUND AT WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM

MOZART - SYMPHONIES 35 AND 40, PIANO CONCERTO 20
Serkin, LPO, Philadelphia Orchestra, Kleiber, van Beinum, Ormandy

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Ormandy

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