



BEETHOVEN

SYMPHONY No 6 'PASTORAL', in F, Op. 68

NBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

CONDUCTED BY ARTURO TOSCANINI

- 1 1st mvt. - Allegro ma non troppo (11:01)
 - 2 2nd mvt. - Andante molto mosso (11:06)
 - 3 3rd mvt. - Allegro (4:47)
 - 4 4th mvt. - Allegro (3:36)
 - 5 5th mvt. - Allegretto (8:41)
- NDS-MM-4348, NDS-MM-4347, NDS-MM-4349 Nos. 71A, 70B, 71B



Recorded live NBC Studio 8H, 5th March, 1944
Source discs from the collection of Christophe Pizzutti

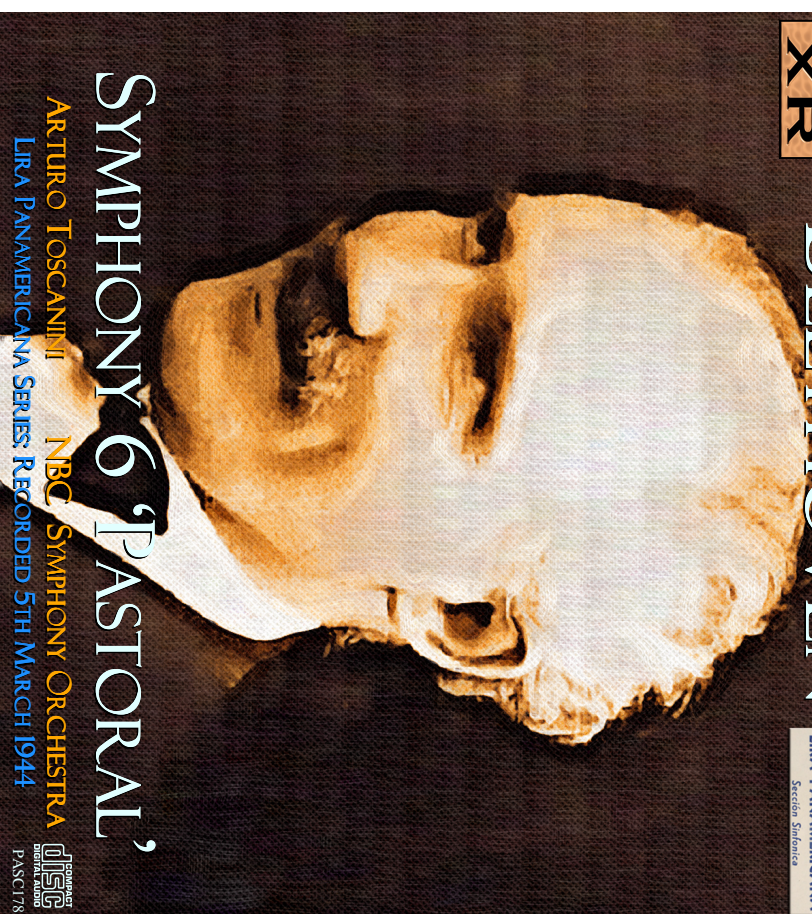
The *Lira Panamericana* series of radio transcription discs featuring Toscanini conducting Beethoven were largely drawn from his Autumn 1944 cycle. However, the *55th Symphony* was omitted from the 'Beethoven Festival', having previously been heard during an all-Beethoven concert earlier that year, and it is that performance which was used here.

Transfer and XR remastering by Andrew Rose at Pristine Audio, July 2009
Cover artwork based on a photograph of Arturo Toscanini
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ARTURO TOSCANINI NBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
LIRA PANAMERICANA SERIES: RECORDED 5TH MARCH 1944



BEETHOVEN: SYMPHONY NO. 6

TOSCANINI, NBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Ludwig van Beethoven's Symphony No. 6 in F major (Op. 68), known as the Pastoral Symphony, was completed in 1808. One of Beethoven's few works of program music, the symphony was labeled at its first performance with the title "*Recollections of Country Life*".

Beethoven was a lover of nature who spent a great deal of his time on walks in the country. He frequently left Vienna to work in rural locales. He was, however, not the first composer of his time to depict nature symphonically; for example, Joseph Haydn's oratorio *The Seasons*, premiered in 1802, likewise portrayed the loveliness of nature, dancing peasants, a thunderstorm, bird calls, and so on. Beethoven did not write another oratorio, but a symphony, and thus escaped from the overly-literal character that a libretto would have imposed. As the composer said, the Sixth Symphony is "a matter more of feeling than of painting in sounds", and the same point is made in the title he attached to the first movement.

The first sketches of this symphony appeared in 1802. The symphony has programmatic titles; Beethoven remarked, "*It is left to the listener to find out the situations ... Anyone that has formed any ideal of rural life does not need titles to imagine the composer's intentions.*"

The Pastoral Symphony was composed simultaneously with Beethoven's more famous—and more fiery—Fifth Symphony. It was premiered along with the Fifth in a long and somewhat underrehearsed concert in the Theater an der Wien in Vienna, on December 22, 1808. It was received rather coldly, mainly due to the excitement caused by its more flamboyant counterpart. Although the Sixth Symphony contains some of Beethoven's most beautiful writing, the crowds had been wanting another bold and adventurous work, and the relatively calm and introspective composition was not wholly to their liking.

Since this inauspicious beginning, however, the work has become one of the central works of the symphonic repertoire. It is a favorite of many listeners and is frequently performed and recorded today.

The symphony breaks from the standard symphonic form of the time in having five movements, rather than the four typical of the Classical era. The movements are marked as follows:

1. **Erwachen heiterer Empfindungen bei der Ankunft auf dem Lande** (*Awakening of cheerful feelings upon arrival in the country*): Allegro ma non troppo
2. **Szene am Bach** (*Scene at the brook*): Andante molto mosso
3. **Lustiges Zusammensein der Landleute** (*Happy gathering of country folk*): Allegro
4. **Gewitter. Sturm** (*Thunderstorm; Storm*): Allegro
5. **Hirtengesang. Frohe und dankbare Gefühle nach dem Sturm** (*Shepherds' song; cheerful and thankful feelings after the storm*): Allegretto

NOTES FROM WIKIPEDIA - FURTHER NOTES ONLINE AT WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM