

SIBELIUS

SYMPHONY No 2 IN D, OP. 43

HANS SCHMIDT-ISSERSTEDT

CONDUCTS THE

N.W.D.R. SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA OF HAMBURG

- 1 1st mvt. - Allegretto (10:32)
- 2 2nd mvt. - Andante ma rubato (13:20)
- 3 3rd mvt. - Vivacissimo (6:20)
- 4 4th mvt. - Allegro moderato (13:55)

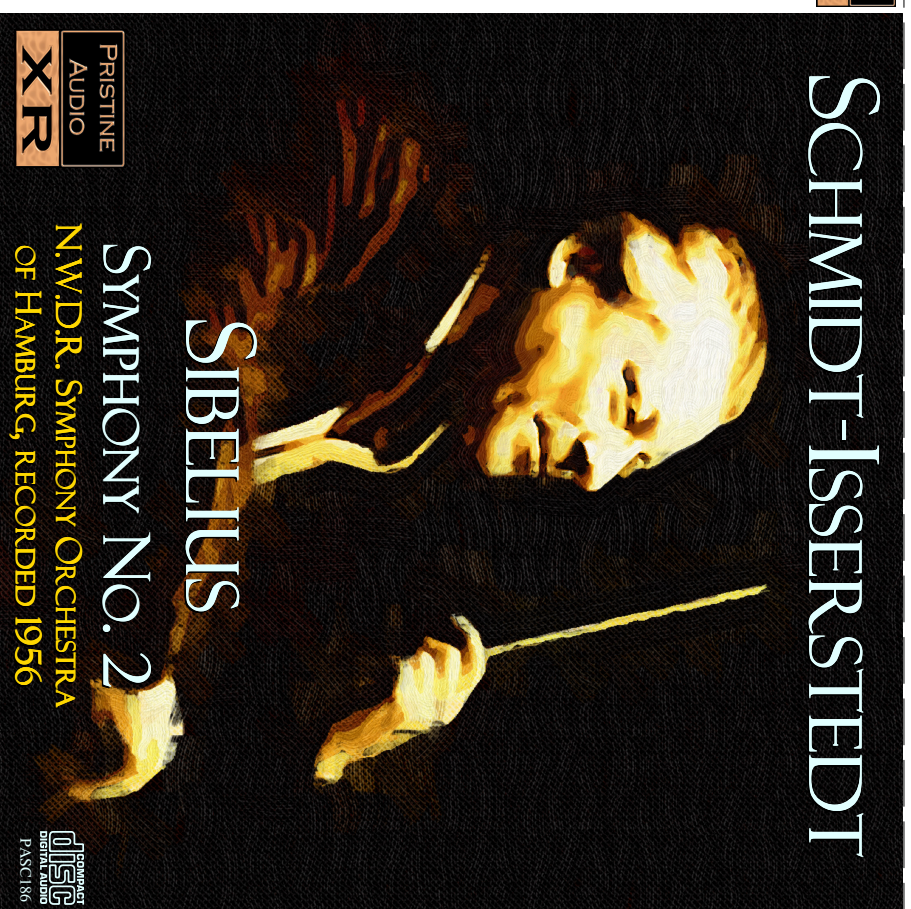
Recorded in Hamburg in 1956.

Transfer from Capitol LP 18009 in the collection of John J. Davis by Edward Johnson
Restoration and XR remastering by Andrew Rose at Pristine Audio, September 2009

Cover artwork based on a photograph of Hans Schmidt-Isserstedt

Total duration: 44:07 ©2009 Pristine Audio.

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SIBELIUS: SYMPHONY No 2 in D

SCHMIDT-ISSERSTEDT, NWDR SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA OF HAMBURG

Jean Sibelius's Symphony No. 2 in D major, Opus 43 was started in winter 1900 in Rapallo, Italy, and finished in 1902 in Finland. It was first performed by the Helsinki Philharmonic Society on 8 March 1902 with the composer conducting. After the first performance, Sibelius made some revisions, and the revised version was given its first performance by Armas Järnefelt on 10 November 1903 in Stockholm. It is in four movements, with the third movement and the finale played *attacca*:

1. *Allegretto - Poco allegro - Tranquillo, ma poco a poco rinvivendo il tempo all'allegro - Poco largamente - Tempo I - Poco allegro*
2. *Tempo andante, ma rubato - Poco allegro - Molto largamente - Andante sostenuto - Andante con moto ed energico - Allegro - Poco largamente - Molto largamente - Andante sostenuto - Andante con moto ed energico - Andante - Pesante*
3. *Vivacissimo - Lento e soave - Tempo primo - Lento e soave - (attacca)*
4. *Finale: Allegro moderato - Moderato assai - Meno moderato e poco a poco rinvivendo il tempo - Tempo I - Largamente e pesante - Poco largamente - Molto largamente*

The duration is approximately 45 minutes.

In Finland, this popular work with its grandiose finale was connected with the struggle for Finland's independence, even being dubbed the "Symphony of Independence" as it was written at a time of Russian sanctions on Finnish language and culture. Sibelius's reaction to this has been widely debated; some claim that he had not intended any patriotic message and was purely identified as a nationalist composer, while others believe that he wrote the piece with an independent Finland in mind.[citation needed]

Tying in with Sibelius' philosophy on the art of the symphony (the Finnish composer wrote that he "admired [the symphony's] severity of style and the profound logic that created an inner connection between all the motifs...") The work grows almost organically out of a rising three-note motif heard at the opening of the work, which, after appearing in many guises throughout the entire symphony (and indeed forming the basis for most of the material) forms the dramatic theme of the finale.

The first recording was made by Robert Kajanus with the London Symphony Orchestra for the HMV label in May 1930.

NB. The present recording includes a revised timpani part at the end of the finale from the conductor Serge Koussevitzky which, although it received the approval of the composer, was never officially incorporated into the published score of the work.

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