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Furtwängler conducts Brahms

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The Double Concerto was recorded at a live performance. Willi Boskovsky had been the VPO's concertmaster since 1939, and Emanuel Bräbe was the orchestra's principal cellist. The acoustic is a little confined, and the solo cello seems to catch the microphone slightly, but the balance is reasonably good and the sound itself quite clear. The performance starts unpromisingly, with fairly ordinary contributions from the soloists and a rather heavy tutti from Furtwängler, but as the first movement proceeds a greater spirit grows, and soon soloists and conductor establish a good rapport. The slow movement is given a lovely, serene performance, although the finale is taken at a dangerously slow tempo. There are some good touches here but a somewhat strained, impatient quality in the solo playing, as if Boskovsky and Bräbe wanted to escape from the orchestra's somewhat lumbering presence. This is a flawed performance, then, but it has thought-provoking and stimulating qualities too.

A.S., Gramophone September 1990 - *excerpt from review of Double Concerto*

Transfer notes

Both of these live recordings were made in the year of 1952 at a time when technical sound quality was undergoing a revolutionary step forward thanks to the advent both of tape and vinyl LP technologies almost simultaneously. However the equipment of the day was not without its sonic shortcomings, and both of these recordings suffered a slightly harsh, boxy sound quality in their original states. Fortunately this can now be largely remedied by Pristine's 32-bit XR remastering system, which has made great strides in improving the tonal qualities of both the Symphony and Concerto recordings. In both cases the orchestras played slightly sharper than the standard A=440Hz, and I've used careful analysis of electrical tones captured in both recordings from mains interference as a guide to set pitch precisely to that heard at each concert. The end result of this work is to bring us closer than ever before to the sound of these concerts as heard by Furtwängler and his 1952 audiences. Note that the lack of applause and movement breaks were as found on my source material. AR

FULL PROGRAMME NOTES CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM
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Furtwängler

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Brahms
Symphony No. 2
Double Concerto
Berlin & Vienna
Philharmonie Orchestras
Live recordings, 1952

XR remastering by **Andrew Rose**

Cover artwork based on photographs of
Wilhelm Furtwängler and **Brahms**

Symphony No. 2

Transfer from EMI LP SG 153-53668 M

Recorded live, 7 May 1952

Deutsches Museum, Munich

Double Concerto

Transfer from EMI LP SG 153-53669 M

Recorded live, 27 January 1952

Großer Musikvereinssaal, Vienna

Total duration: **75:57**

Furtwängler Brahms

BRAHMS Symphony No. 2 in D major, Op. 73

- 1 1st mvt. - Allegro non troppo (18:35)
- 2 2nd mvt. - Adagio non troppo (10:49)
- 3 3rd mvt. - Allegretto grazioso (quasi andantino) (9:58)
- 4 4th mvt. - Allegro con spirito (9:15)

Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra Wilhelm Furtwängler

BRAHMS Double Concerto in A minor, Op. 102

- 1 1st mvt. - Allegro (17:18)
- 2 2nd mvt. - Andante (7:49)
- 3 3rd mvt. - Vivace non troppo (9:13)

Willi Boskovsky violin

Emanuel Brabec cello

Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra Wilhelm Furtwängler

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