



Klemperer

Brahms Symphonies Volume 2



I heard this shortly after listening to the [1961] RCA/Reiner recording of Brahms No. 4 (reviewed last month), both of the same vintage, and could not help but be struck by the difference of sound. Both are good—but both very different. The RCA is brighter and more vivid: the HMV had neither of those characteristics, even when it was first issued. Yet it is satisfactory enough to convey Klemperer's superb performance, which is what matters. Klemperer always liked his woodwind well forward and if you played this to someone who didn't know what he was listening to and started at the third movement, he might think it a piece for woodwind ensemble, so forward is their sound, though the string pizzicato bass is perfectly clearly balanced.

But it is the performance that matters. Klemperer's perception of the architecture of a movement, of where to increase and when to relax the tension, makes this symphony seem stronger than it is often allowed to be, yet there is no lack of lyricism.

T. H., The Gramophone, August 1977 - *review of LP reissue, of Symphony No. 2 excerpt*

Transfer notes

The classic 1956-57 Klemperer Brahms recordings, made with the Philharmonia Orchestra by EMI in London's Kingsway Hall, have long been regarded by many as perhaps the finest ever made. Happily the EMI engineers opted to record in stereo, at a time when far too many recordings were still being made in mono, and stereo reproduction in the home was limited to a very narrow range of open-reel tape machines.

For the day, the recordings stand up reasonably well, though as the 1977 review above demonstrates, as little as twenty years later they were showing their age, and so it's little surprise that 55 years after the event Klemperer's Brahms comes across as a little faded and dusty, if only in sound quality.

Happily this can now be rectified to quite stunning effect. 32-bit XR remastering has served here to bring a quality of sound unimaginable in 1957 to these recordings, shedding decades in the process, and revealing a depth, vibrancy and dynamism that previous issues simply failed to convey. **AR**

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

The Brahms Symphonies

Volume Two

Symphony No. 2

Symphony No. 3

The Philharmonia Orchestra
Stereo studio recordings, 1956/57



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PASC 361

BRAHMS SYMPHONY NO. 2 - SYMPHONY NO. 3
KLEMPERER, THE PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA

COMPACT
disc
DIGITAL AUDIO
PASC 361

XR remastering by
Andrew Rose

Transfers from HMV
box set SLS 804

Symphony No. 2
Recorded 29, 30 October 1956

Symphony No. 3
Recorded 26, 27 March 1957

Recorded at Kingsway Hall,
London

Total duration: **75:43**

Klemperer Brahms Volume 2

Symphony No. 2 in D major, Op. 73

- 1 1st mvt. - Allegro non troppo (14:59)
- 2 2nd mvt. - Adagio non troppo (9:18)
- 3 3rd mvt. - Allegretto grazioso (quasi andantino) (5:28)
- 4 4th mvt. - Allegro con spirito (9:20)

Symphony No. 3 in F major, Op. 90

- 5 1st mvt. - Allegro con brio (13:00)
- 6 2nd mvt. - Andante (8:16)
- 7 3rd mvt. - Poco allegretto (6:12)
- 8 4th mvt. - Allegro (9:10)

The Philharmonia Orchestra Otto Klemperer

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KLEMPERER, THE PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA

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