



Klemperer

Brahms Symphonies Volume 3



There are sixteen versions of the Brahms Fourth Symphony currently available, and even at its full price, the Klemperer retained a competitive position that its relegation to the HMV Concert Classics label naturally enhances. As a reading it has admirable qualities; it has vitality and integrity, and the playing of the Philharmonia Orchestra is unfailingly responsive. It is as generally recommendable as Klemperer's fine version of the Second Symphony, though it possesses neither the smoothness of texture and beauty of tone that distinguishes the Karajan (DG 138 927, 11/64) and misses something of the intensity of the old Toscanini RCA version (now deleted). But if it wants some of the warmth of say, Bruno Walter on CBS Classics (61211, 5/71) or Kurt Sanderling in the slow movement (Sanderling's record seems to me to have been somewhat underrated—RCA SB6879, 2/74), it has undeniably power and a sense of forward movement. I am not much enamoured of the accelerando at the end of the first movement or the rather mannered ritardando in the fifth bar of the Scherzo but these details will worry some readers less than others. The sound quality is well detailed and in comparing the new pressing with the Columbia original, apart from smoother surfaces, one feels a greater sharpening of the aural focus and more cleanly defined detail.

R. L., *The Gramophone*, August 1976 - review of LP reissue, of *Symphony No. 4* 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 1976 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 Three

Symphony No. 4

Tragic Overture

The Philharmonia Orchestra
Stereo studio recordings, 1957



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BRAMHMS SYMPHONY No. 4 - TRAGIC OVERTURE
KLEMPERER, THE PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA

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BRAMHMS SYMPHONY No. 4 - TRAGIC OVERTURE
KLEMPERER, THE PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA

PASC 362

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XR remastering by
Andrew Rose

Transfers from HMV
box set SLS 804

Symphony No. 4
Recorded 27-29 March 1967

Tragic Overture
Recorded 29 March 1967

Recorded at Kingsway Hall,
London

Total duration: **51:40**

Klemperer Brahms Volume 3

Symphony No. 4 in E minor, Op. 98

- 1 1st mvt. - Allegro non troppo (12:22)
- 2 2nd mvt. - Andante moderato (10:18)
- 3 3rd mvt. - Allegro giocoso (6:37)
- 4 4th mvt. - Allegro energico e passionato (9:56)

- 5 Tragic Overture, Op. 81 (12:27)

The Philharmonia Orchestra Otto Klemperer

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