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Klemperer

Beethoven Symphonies Volume 1

Klemperer

The Beethoven Symphonies

All of us owe a debt to Walter Legge - even the music critics among us - for his acumen in detecting great gifts and his ruthless determination that they shall be displayed in this country. It is principally due to him that Klemperer's stature was at last established here; London has a firm tradition of Klemperer neglect going back to the early thirties, when only a few critics shouted his greatness into deaf ears. In recent years there have been few more profoundly thrilling events than those tremendous Beethoven series, few more exciting moments than when the curtain to the artists' room of the Festival Hall was suddenly pulled aside and that great figure came shuffling out, sick, held aggressively forward, hand groping for the rail, the huge head flung back like an Easter Island statue. If one raised one's eyes to a box above, there usually was Mr. Legge concealed behind a triumphant grin, and if one had recovered from the concert sufficiently by morning, one could limp round to the shops for the records of the Beethoven symphonies which Mr. Legge's Columbia connection provided...

John Warack, The Gramophone, August 1960 - "A Quarterly Retrospective", *excerpt*

Transfer notes

Klemperer was a busy man in 1957 and thereabouts. Having polished off the Brahms symphonies (Pristine Audio *PAC360-362*) in the springtime, he soon set to work on the Beethoven canon. October alone saw recordings in London's Kingsway Hall of the bulk of the series - all or part of the *First, Second, Fourth, Sixth, Eighth* and *Ninth* were taped in stereo during this month, together with the *Coriolan Overture* present in this volume.

It's true to say that the recordings were very well made for their day - better perhaps than the Brahms which had preceded them. XR remastering here isn't a question of rescuing a dismal historic artefact; rather it's a case of eliciting the very finest sound quality possible from fine source material - digging deep into the bass for added richness; opening out off-constricted strings; lifting a veil from the upper treble. In short, whilst the current EMI transfers are perfectly acceptable representations of what was possible in 1957, these Pristine remastering offer us what more could have been heard had Klemperer and the Philharmonia had a 21st century recording facility to work with. It's one of those classic series of recordings which merit the very best sound quality - and which should stand thus in every collection. **AR**

FULL PROGRAMME NOTES CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM
SARL Pristine Audio, Le Bourg, 24610 St. Méard de Gurçon, France - 'Tel. (00) 33 553 821857
www.pristineclassical.com

Volume One

Symphony Nos. 1 - 3

Coriolan Overture

The Philharmonia Orchestra
Stereo studio recordings, 1957 & 1959

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BEETHOVEN SYMPHONIES VOLUME 1: Nos 1-3, CORIOLAN OVERTURE
KLEMPERER, PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA

Klemperer Beethoven Vol. 1

Symphony No. 1 in C, Op. 21

- 1 1st mvt. - Adagio molto - Allegro con brio (9:54)
- 2 2nd mvt. - Andante cantabile con moto (8:55)
- 3 3rd mvt. - Menuetto (4:05)
- 4 4th mvt. - Adagio - Allegro molto e vivace (6:35)

Symphony No. 2 in D, Op. 36

- 5 1st mvt. - Adagio molto - Allegro con brio (13:33)
- 6 2nd mvt. - Larghetto (13:13)
- 7 3rd mvt. - Scherzo (allegro) (4:01)
- 8 4th mvt. - Allegro molto (7:05)

Symphony No. 3 in E flat, Op. 55 "EROICA"

- 1 1st mvt. - Allegro con brio (16:44)
- 2 2nd mvt. - Marcia funebre: Adagio assai (16:57)
- 3 3rd mvt. - Scherzo: Allegro vivace (6:36)
- 4 4th mvt. - Allegro molto (13:33)

- 5 Coriolan Overture, Op. 62 (7:59)

The Philharmonia Orchestra Otto Klemperer

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XR remastering by **Andrew Rose**

Cover artwork based on a
photograph of **Otto Klemperer**

Symphony No. 1
Recorded 28-29 October 1957

Symphony No. 2
Recorded 4-5 October 1957

***Symphony No. 3**
Recorded 29 October & 11-13
November 1959

Coriolan Overture
Recorded 21 October 1957

Recorded at Kingsway Hall, London
*Studio One, Abbey Road, London

Total duration: **2hr 9:10**

For a full catalogue visit
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