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HORENSTEIN CONDUCTS BRUCKNER

Symphonies 8 and 9

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This is the sort of production that puts music-lovers in great debt to the gramophone: fine music rarely heard in this country, a deeply convincing performance, and a recording that is a complete success. Bruckner did not live to finish this symphony and the sketches he had made for the last movement were not nearly complete enough for anyone else to put them together. The work ends, therefore, with its slow movement, a piece of enormous size that needs, and repays, repeated hearing. The other two movements are easier, especially the wonderful Scherzo (which any hesitant listener might try first).

But with a performance such as this, spacious and beautifully judged as it is, there is little need for hesitancy. Whatever one gets out of it at a first hearing, I think it would be impossible to reach the end of this record without the feeling that one had been through something in the way of a deep and great experience. I cannot over-praise Horenstein's handling of this score and the orchestra gives us lovely playing throughout. Finally, as I have said, Vox have produced a really fine recording with a rich quality of sound that is just what Bruckner's music wants—above all, fine string tone and with plenty of double-bass to give the whole sound solidity. This is a record not to miss.

T.H., *The Gramophone*, March 1955 - (review of *Symphony No. 9*)

Producer's Note

Jascha Horenstein is justifiably associated with the music of perhaps two composers above all: Mahler and Bruckner. This release breathes new life into two of his essential 1950s Vox Bruckner recordings with a Vienna Symphony Orchestra (renamed, for contractual reasons, Pro Musica Orchestra, Vienna on the original LPs). "This is Bruckner as he should be—not a portentous bore, but a blazing visionary" wrote Deryck Cooke in 1963 of the 8th Symphony by Horenstein, the first recording of the 1890 version of the symphony in the then-newly published (1955) Novak Critical Edition, whilst EMG Monthly Letter in 1956 reckoned it to be "the greatest Bruckner performance we remember in twenty years, whether on records, the radio, or in the concert hall."

From a technical perspective both recordings have aged reasonably, but had a distance and thinness of tone that failed to do justice either to the music or to the orchestra. Bruckner's symphonic music demands size, weight and depth to make its full impact, something the original Vox recordings captured but concealed. I'm certain they were impressive for their time but they dated quickly. This 32-bit XR remastering aims to rectify that, and deserves to be savoured in its full, glorious Ambient Stereo incarnation for full impact. Both recordings suffered from tape speed drift, most particularly the 8th, this I have corrected for the first time; there were also tape dropout issues on the 8th that I've addressed. But it is for the overall impact of an orchestral tone enriched and given weight, top-end extension and dimension that this Pristine release will really stand out. **Andrew Rose**

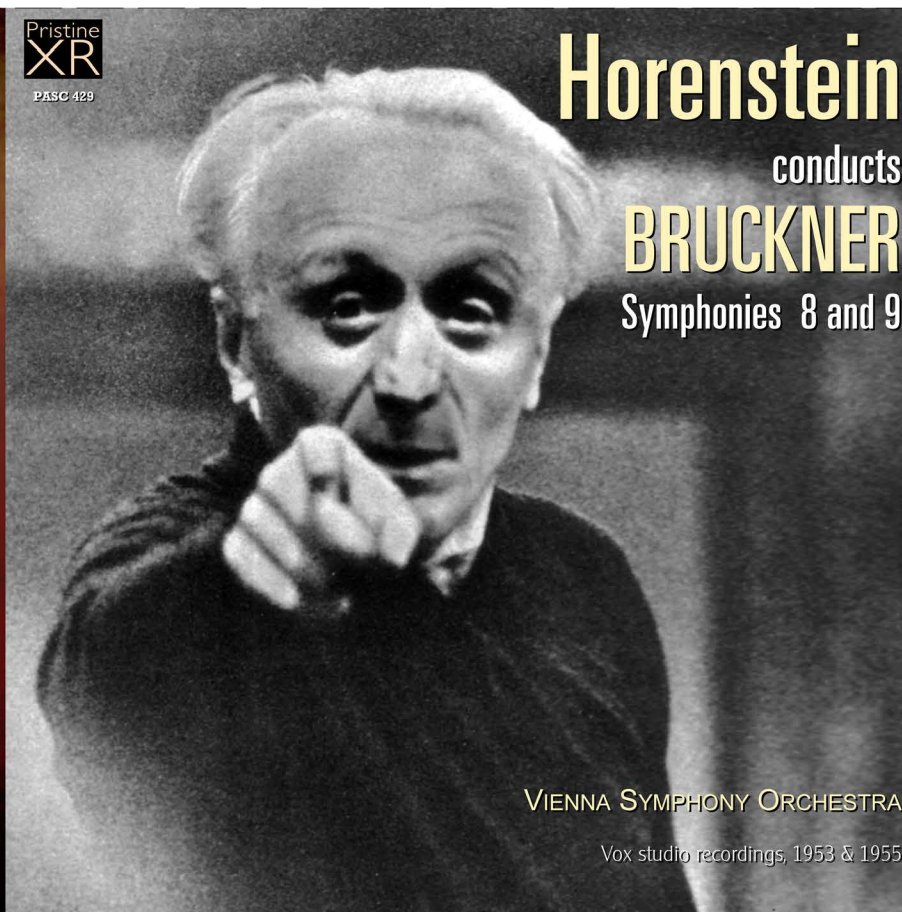
FULL PROGRAMME NOTES CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM
SARL Pristine Audio, 144 Rue de l'Eglise, 24610 St. Méard de Gurçon, France

Horenstein

conducts

BRUCKNER

Symphonies 8 and 9



VIENNA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Vox studio recordings, 1953 & 1955

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BRUCKNER SYMPHONY No. 8 - SYMPHONY No. 9
HORENSTEIN, VIENNA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

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XR remastering by Andrew Rose

Cover artwork based on a
photograph of Jascha Horenstein

Symphony No. 8
Recorded September 1955
Issued as Vox PL 9682

Symphony No. 9
Recorded February 1953
Issued as Vox PL 8040

Recorded at Symphonia Studio, Vienna
Engineer: Josef Duron
Producer: Imre Rósa

Transfers from the collection
of Misha Horenstein

Total duration: 2hr 9:43

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BRUCKNER SYMPHONY No. 8 - SYMPHONY No. 9
HORENSTEIN, VIENNA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

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HORENSTEIN *conducts Bruckner*

Disc One: BRUCKNER Symphony No. 8 in C minor

- 1 1st mvt. - Allegro moderato (13:39)
- 2 2nd mvt. - Scherzo: Allegro moderato - Trio: Langsam (15:06)
- 3 3rd mvt. - Adagio: Feierlich langsam; doch nicht schleppend (25:28)
- 4 4th mvt. - Finale: Feierlich, nicht schnell (22:44)

Disc Two: BRUCKNER Symphony No. 9 in D minor

- 1 1st mvt. - Feierlich, Misterioso (21:46)
- 2 2nd mvt. - Scherzo: Bewegt, Lebhaft; Trio: Schnell (9:57)
- 3 3rd mvt. - Adagio: Langsam, Feierlich (21:03)

Vienna Symphony Orchestra *Jascha Horenstein*