

COMPACT
disc
DIGITAL AUDIO
PASC 452

BRUNO WALTER RARITIES

American Columbia Recordings

PRISTINE
AUDIO

Producer's Note

This collection brings together eight recordings by Bruno Walter which have seen scant, if any, availability in the CD era. All stem from studio sessions for US Columbia, and range from among his earliest recordings in America (Brahms) to one of his last of the pre-stereo era (Schubert 5th). Some have seen limited CD reissue by Sony in France and Japan (Schubert 8th, Dvořák) or Japan only (Brahms), while the remainder have never had an "official" CD release. Two of the recordings (Schubert 5th, *Così* Overture) have apparently never even had an *unofficial* CD release on independent labels.

The reasons for the unavailability of these recordings generally involve remakes in improved sound. The Mozart *Jupiter* and *Così* Overture, both stemming from the same 1945 session, are a case in point. This was the second of four commercial recordings Walter would make of the symphony; he had previously recorded it with the Vienna Philharmonic, and would go on to remake it with the New York Philharmonic on tape in 1956, and with the (West Coast) Columbia Symphony Orchestra in stereo in 1960. While the latter two have stayed intermittently in the catalog, this earlier version was forgotten. This recording of the *Così* Overture was Walter's first, but he would go on to remake it in mono with the East Coast CoSO in 1954, then with their West Coast counterpart in stereo in 1960.

Similarly, the mono 1955 Schubert Fifth with the East Coast CoSO, another first Walter recording, was replaced five years later with a stereo West Coast version. The Strauss waltz was one more item which Walter had previously recorded in Vienna. He would go on to remake it yet again with the New York CoSO in 1956, and that has been the one reissued ever since.

The Schubert *Unfinished* is one of only two commercial recordings Walter made with the Philadelphia Orchestra. (The other, Beethoven's *Pastoral*, is available on Pristine PASC 067.) Another item originally recorded in Vienna, it was remade with the New York Philharmonic in stereo in 1958. The Mendelssohn Scherzo is the only item on the program which only exists in a single recording. It was made at the same session as the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto with Milstein and Walter as the set's filler side.

The Brahms *Schicksalslied*, sung here in English, was recorded at Walter's third session with the Philharmonic held during the first year he recorded with them, 1941. Its dour message ("[W]e have been fated/To find no rest here on earth/They vanish, they falter/Our suffering brothers") may have been programmed by Walter in sympathy with the innocent victims caught up in the wars raging in Europe and Asia; but it found a new resonance at this session, held eight days after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Walter would remake the work in stereo in Los Angeles in 1961.

The final recording was Walter's first of two versions of the Dvořák Eighth. He would go on to remake it in stereo with the West Coast CoSO in 1961, but would not eclipse the tremendous vitality of this electrifying version.

Mark Obert-Thorn

Bruno Walter Rarities

American Columbia Recordings, 1941 – 1955

PRISTINE
AUDIO

PASC 452

MOZART Symphony No. 41, 'Jupiter'

SCHUBERT Symphony No. 5

SCHUBERT Symphony No. 8, 'Unfinished'

J. STRAUSS II Emperor Waltz

BRAHMS Song of Destiny

DVOŘÁK Symphony No. 8

Philharmonic-Symphony

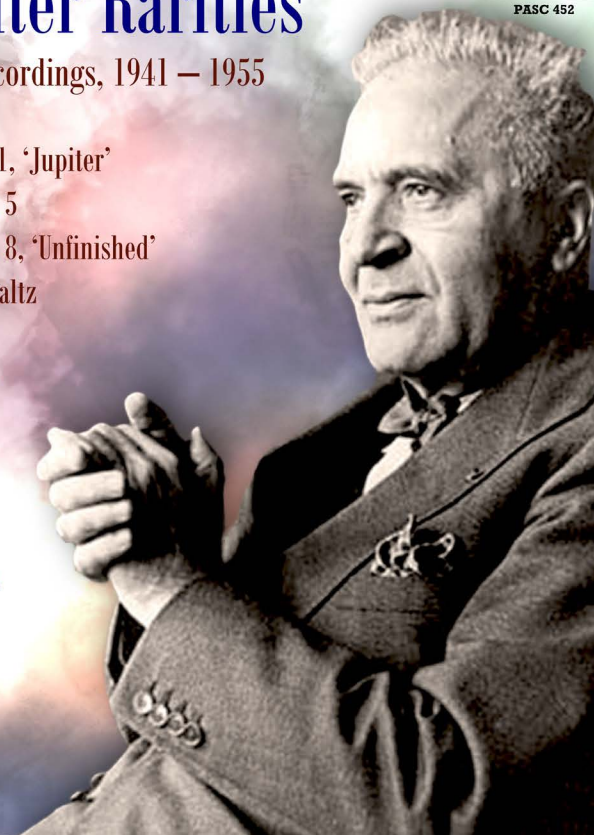
Orchestra of New York

The Philadelphia Orchestra

Columbia Symphony Orchestra

Bruno Walter, conductor

Obert-Thorn



PRISTINE
AUDIO

PASC 452

BRUNO WALTER RARITIES AMERICAN COLUMBIA RECORDINGS, 1941-1955

BRUNO WALTER

CD 1

MOZART *Symphony No. 41 in C major, K.551 'Jupiter'*

1 1st Mvt. - Allegro vivace (8:07)
2 2nd Mvt. - Andante cantabile (8:01)
3 3rd Mvt. - Menuetto: Allegretto & Trio (4:38)
4 4th Mvt. - Finale: Molto Allegro (6:17)
Philharmonic-Symphony Orchestra of New York, 23 January 1945

5 **MOZART** *Così fan tutte, K.588 - Overture* (4:17)
Philharmonic-Symphony Orchestra of New York, 23 January 1945

SCHUBERT *Symphony No. 5 in B flat, D.485*

6 1st Mvt. - Allegro (5:36)
7 2nd Mvt. - Andante con moto (10:48)
8 3rd Mvt. - Menuetto: Allegro molto & Trio (4:44)
9 4th Mvt. - Allegro vivace (5:54)
Columbia Symphony Orchestra, 5, 6 & 8 October 1955

10 **J. STRAUSS II** *Emperor Waltz, Op. 437* (9:15)
Philharmonic-Symphony Orchestra of New York, 18 April 1942

CD 2

SCHUBERT *Symphony No. 8 in B minor, D.759 'Unfinished'*

1 1st Mvt. - Allegro moderato (10:27)
2 2nd Mvt. - Andante con moto (12:14)
The Philadelphia Orchestra, 2 March 1947

3 **MENDELSSOHN** *A Midsummer Night's Dream, Op. 61 - Scherzo* (4:37)
Philharmonic-Symphony Orchestra of New York, 16 May 1945

4 **BRAHMS** *Song of Destiny (Schicksalslied), Op. 54* (13:02)
Westminster Choir (John Finley Williamson, director)
Philharmonic-Symphony Orchestra of New York, 15 December 1941

DVOŘÁK *Symphony No. 8 in G major, Op. 88*

5 1st Mvt. - Allegro con brio (8:37)
6 2nd Mvt. - Adagio (8:43)
7 3rd Mvt. - Allegretto grazioso - Molto vivace (5:32)
8 4th Mvt. - Allegro ma non troppo (7:58)
Philharmonic-Symphony Orchestra of New York, 28 November 1947

COMPACT
disc
DIGITAL AUDIO
PASC 452

Producer and Audio Restoration Engineer:
Mark Obert-Thorn

Additional pitch stabilisation (Mozart 41):
Andrew Rose

Cover artwork based on a
photograph of Bruno Walter

Full discographic information for this release
can be found on our website here:
www.pristineclassical.com/pasc452.html

Total duration: 2hr 18:46

For a full catalogue visit
www.pristineclassical.com
or call : (00) 33 979 622713

© 2015 Pristine Audio

PRISTINE
AUDIO

BRUNO WALTER *conductor*

PRISTINE
AUDIO

BRUNO WALTER RARITIES AMERICAN COLUMBIA RECORDINGS, 1941-1955

PASC 452

BRUNO WALTER