

BRUNO WALTER

Standard Hour, 18 April 1954

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The Standard Hour, also known as The Standard Symphony Hour, was a weekly radio broadcast by the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra and the San Francisco Opera first heard in 1926. The series was carried on the NBC Pacific radio network on Sundays at 8:30 p.m. Pacific time.

Also called The Standard Symphony Hour, The Standard Hour was sponsored by Standard Oil of California. The series began in 1926 in San Francisco, when the San Francisco Symphony faced bankruptcy. Standard Oil of California paid the orchestra's debts and in return was given broadcast rights to that year's concert series. A tradition of more than 30 years began with the first broadcast on the NBC Pacific Network, on October 24, 1926.

"Though it was heard only on a partial network," wrote radio historian John Dunning, "The Standard Hour was a major musical series that spanned the entire length of network broadcasting."

A 1943 brochure shows that the programs were carried on KPO in San Francisco, KFI in Los Angeles, KMJ in Fresno, KGW in Portland, Oregon, KOMO in Seattle, Washington, and KHQ in Spokane, Washington. The Sunday-evening series was ultimately heard in Hawaii and Alaska.

The theme music for The Standard Hour, as well as a complementary radio series for children called The Standard School Broadcast, was "This Hour Is Yours". The theme was composed by Julius Haug, a violinist in the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra. "It was simple theme music, 45 seconds long," wrote John Dunning, "and listeners who loved it and requested 'the entire piece' were surprised when told there was no more."

From 1935 to 1952, the broadcasts often featured the San Francisco Symphony's music director, Pierre Monteux. Other conductors on the broadcasts included Alfred Hertz, Sir Thomas Beecham and Werner Janssen. Arthur Fiedler, who led the San Francisco Symphony's "pops" concerts from 1949 to 1979, conducted several of the broadcast concerts in 1950 and 1951.

A number of these broadcasts were preserved on transcription discs or magnetic tape. Some have been released on CD, including many of Monteux's concerts in the War Memorial Opera House.

Wikipedia

Producer's Note

Having previously appeared as a guest conductor on NBC Pacific's *Standard Hour* programme, Bruno Walter found himself back on the air on 18 April 1954 with the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra and guest soprano Brunetta Mazzolini - just four days before conducting the orchestra (and Mazzolini) in their first ever performance of Brahms' *A German Requiem*. Although sections of this concert may have appeared briefly before, I understand that the high fidelity sound quality heard on this release sets it apart from previous outings by a considerable distance. Here we present the concert in its entirety as broadcast. It also has great musical value, as Fanfare's assistant editor James A. Altema explains: "*It's especially welcome because Walter's live performances of Eine kleine Nachtmusik are much superior to his studio recordings, which with but one exception (Vienna 1936) are disappointingly wooden and heavy. This has real life to it!*" The recording benefits from clear, clean and bright sound, with full and well-rounded orchestral tone - and a quiet and unobtrusive audience.

Andrew Rose

bruno walter

"standard hour"

PASC 469

wagner
prelude from 'parsifal'

mozart
mass in c: et incarnatus est
eine kleine nachtmusik

haydn
the seasons: recitative and aria

weber
overture from 'oberon'

Brunetta Mazzolini, soprano
San Francisco Symphony Orchestra
NBC radio broadcast, 1954

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BRUNO WALTER CONDUCTS WAGNER, MOZART, HAYDN & WEBER
MAZZOLINI, SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, WALTER

bruno walter

COMPACT
disc
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NBC RADIO *Standard Hour No. 1410*

XR remastering by Andrew Rose

Cover artwork based on a
photograph of Bruno Walter

1 Standard Hour - Radio Introduction (1:57)
John Grover, announcer

2 WAGNER Parsifal - Prelude (13:20)

3 MOZART Mass in C minor, K.427 - Et incarnatus est (8:00)
Brunetta Mazzolini *soprano*

MOZART *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*, K.525

4 1st mvt. - Allegro (4:09)

5 2nd mvt. - Romanze (4:23)

6 3rd mvt. - Menuetto (1:59)

7 4th mvt. - Rondo (3:37)

HAYDN *The Seasons*, Hob. XXI:3

8 Oh welcome now (3:16)

9 Oh how pleasing to the senses (5:08)

Brunetta Mazzolini *soprano*

10 WEBER Oberon - Overture (8:36)

11 Standard Hour - Radio closing (1:22)
John Grover, announcer

Standard Hour #1410
Broadcast from the War Memorial
Opera House, San Francisco
on 18 April, 1954

Total duration: 55:47

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San Francisco Symphony Orchestra

Bruno Walter *conductor*

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