



Toscanini

The 1939 Beethoven Cycle, Volume 3



TOSCANINI LEADS BEETHOVEN CYCLE

Conductor Again on Podium as NBC Orchestra Is Heard in 'Coriolanus' Overture

THIRD CONCERT OF SERIES

Fifth and Sixth Symphonies Also Are Presented at Night Program Here

Mr. Toscanini led performances by the NBC Symphony Orchestra of Beethoven's "Coriolanus" overture and Sixth and Fifth symphonies, in the order mentioned, last night in Radio City. It was the third concert of the current Beethoven cycle. The most polite and attentive audience in the world heard superlative readings of these masterpieces.

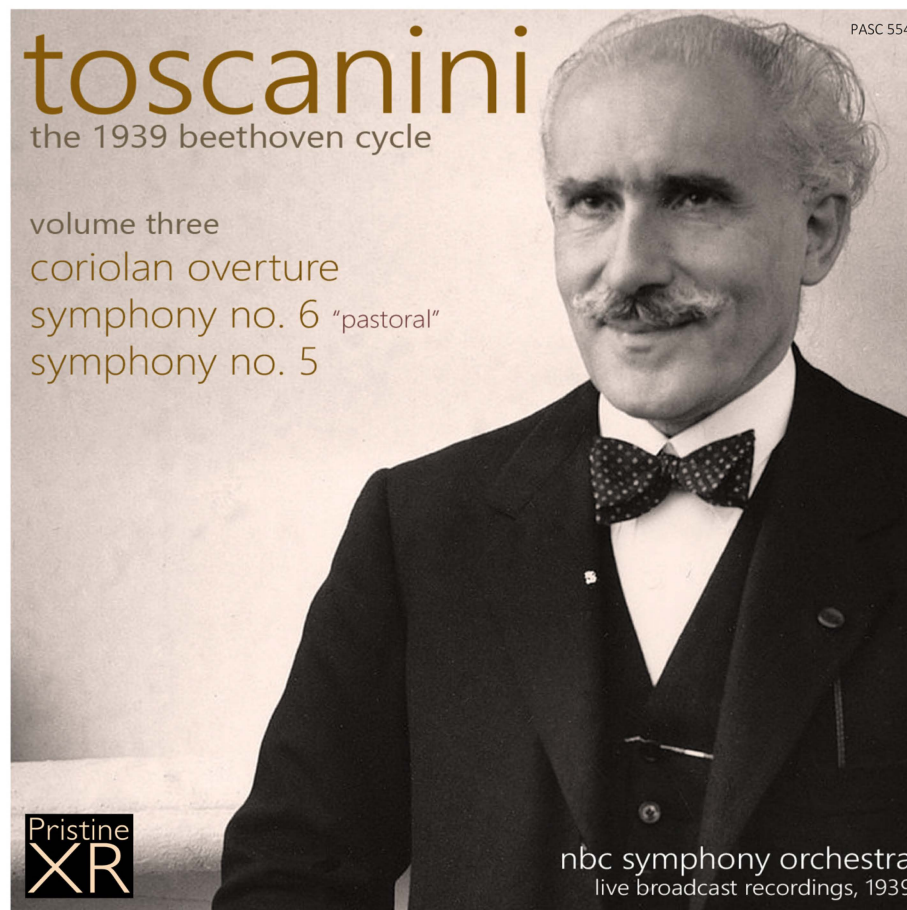
It may be said that these audiences, in addition to the achievements of Mr. Toscanini, experience a special pleasure. For they hear, as they could not hear anywhere else in the world, every note of Beethoven's instrumentation.

This is due to the very acoustical limitations of the auditorium, which has so little vibration, and is deliberately deadened in sonority, so that the orchestral tone loses much of its brilliancy and the richness of the tone is dried up. The result is an almost microscopic clearness of detail, which could be the ruin of an inexperienced performance.

But when Beethoven's "Pastoral" is played with the beauty, clearness and meticulous finish of phrase that Mr. Toscanini bestows upon it there is a new realization of the beauty of the music and its craftsmanship, and the potent simplicity of the thought. For Mr. Toscanini, no more than Beethoven, hasn't anything to conceal. Examine his performance with a magnifying glass for the score and an ear trumpet to magnify any tonal error at hand, and you will only marvel at the workmanship of composer, conductor and orchestra.

As for the thrilling performance of the Fifth symphony, it need only be said that it sounded exactly as Beethoven would have had it, and rang as true as steel throughout its gamut of heroic feeling. It is certainly the most dramatic symphony ever written. The audience was applauding wildly as the reviewers fled to their task.

Olin Downes, The New York Times, 12 November 1939



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TOSCANINI THE 1939 BEETHOVEN CYCLE VOLUME 3 - SYMPHONIES 5 & 6, CORIOLAN OVERTURE
TOSCANINI, NBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

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1. RADIO Opening Announcement (0:18)
2. BEETHOVEN Coriolan Overture, Op. 62 (7:26)
- BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 6 in F, Op. 68 "Pastoral"
3. 1st mvt. - Erwachen heiterer Empfindungen bei der Ankunft auf dem Lande. (11:41)
4. 2nd mvt. - Scene am Bach. Andante molto moto (11:53)
5. 3rd mvt. - Lustiges Zusammensein der Landleute. Allegro (5:03)
6. 4th mvt. - Gewitter. Sturm. Allegro (3:27)
7. 5th mvt. - Hirtengesang. Frohe und dankbare Gefühle nach dem Sturm. Allegretto (9:01)
8. RADIO Midway announcements (0:31)
- BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 5 in C minor, Op. 67
9. 1st mvt. - Allegro con brio (7:19)
10. 2nd mvt. - Andante con moto (9:15)
11. 3rd mvt. - Scherzo. Allegro - Trio (4:51)
12. 4th mvt. - Allegro (8:43)
13. RADIO Closing Announcement (0:16)

NBC Symphony Orchestra
conducted by Arturo Toscanini

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XR remastering by Andrew Rose

Cover artwork based on a
photograph of Toscanini

Broadcast of 11 November, 1939
NBC Studio 8H, Radio City, New York

Total duration: 79:44

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