



Fritz Busch

in Vienna: Beethoven & Haydn Symphonies



Fritz Busch's recordings of Beethoven and Haydn for the American Remington label in Vienna are famed in stating some of the last orchestral studio recordings Busch ever made. Being at the prime of his art of conducting, particularly his Beethoven was far too little documented by that time although he had already conducted Beethoven very early in his career, both in concert and in the studio, his earliest surviving rendering, the scherzo of the 'Eroica', being made in Stuttgart in 1919. Only much later his "Leonore" Overtures II and III and Ninth Symphony, were recorded in Copenhagen by the Danish Radio (in 1948 and 1950 respectively, available on PASC 604), the Violin Concerto (soloist Adolf Busch) in New York in 1942, the *Egmont* Overture in Los Angeles in 1946 for the Standard [Oil] Music Hour, the First Symphony in Chicago in 1949 and the Fifth in New York in December 1950. Busch's Viennese recordings of the Symphonies Nos. 3 and 8 with the Niederösterreichisches Tonkünstlerorchester and of No. 7 with the Wiener Symphoniker from a Radio Rot-Weiß-Rot concert hence form an essential contribution to the Beethoven performing tradition and complement Busch's art of conducting Beethoven substantially.

Additionally to the Beethoven recordings made in Vienna, there was sufficient time left to do another record for Remington, Haydn's "The Clock" Symphony. Busch's recording of Haydn's G major Symphony No. 88 for His Master's Voice in Copenhagen in 1949 had been a great success commercially so that Vienna was now the right place to devote the remaining recording to this late Haydn symphony. Although the Niederösterreichisches Tonkünstlerorchester database does not give the exact recording schedules, it appears reasonable to assume that the Beethoven recordings were made first. Marcel Prawy (1911–2003), the recordings' producer, had just started organising concerts at the Kosmos Cinema and was responsible for the Viennese Remington productions. He became a central figure in Viennese operatic life, including a professorship in operatic dramaturgy at the University of Music and Performing Arts. On the last day of the Remington recording sessions the Niederösterreichisches Tonkünstlerorchester appointed Fritz Busch as an honorary member. It is by no means coincidental that the recordings Fritz Busch made in Vienna, be it for the radio or in the recording studio, are of music of the 'core' 'Classical' repertoire – he clearly wanted to make his mark in this field.

Jürgen Schaarwächter, Max-Reger-Institut with BuschBrothersArchive, Karlsruhe



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BEETHOVEN SYMPHONIES 3, 7 & 8 - HAYDN SYMPHONY 101
BUSCH, NIEDERÖSTERREICHISCHES TONKÜNSTLERORCHESTER, VIENNA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

busch
in vienna

COMPACT
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disc one

BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 3 in E flat, Op. 55, 'Eroica'

1. 1st mvt. - Allegro con brio (13:41)
2. 2nd mvt. - Marcia funebre. Adagio assai (13:58)
3. 3rd mvt. - Scherzo. Allegro vivace - Trio (5:25)
4. 4th mvt. - Finale. Allegro molto (10:33)

BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 8 in F, Op. 93

5. 1st mvt. - Allegro vivace e con brio (9:27)
6. 2nd mvt. - Allegretto scherzando (4:18)
7. 3rd mvt. - Tempo di Menuetto (5:16)
8. 4th mvt. - Allegro vivace (8:03)

Recorded Nrahmssaal, Musikverein, Vienna
16-20 and 25 October, 1950
Producer: Marcel Prawy

disc two

BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 7 in A, Op. 92*

1. 1st mvt. - Poco sostenuto - Vivace (11:16)
 2. 2nd mvt. - Allegretto (9:39)
 3. 3rd mvt. - Presto (7:24)
 4. 4th mvt. - Allegro con brio (6:58)
- Live broadcast, Vienna, 15 October 1950
Rundfunkkonzert Radio Rot-Weiß-Rot

HAYDN Symphony No. 101 in D, Hob. I: 101, 'Clock'

5. 1st mvt. - Adagio - Presto (8:16)
6. 2nd mvt. - Andante (6:52)
7. 3rd mvt. - Minuet - Trio. Allegretto (8:46)
8. 4th mvt. - Finale. Vivace (4:29)

Recorded Nrahmssaal, Musikverein, Vienna
16-20 and 25 October, 1950
Producer: Marcel Prawy

Niederösterreichisches Tonkünstlerorchester
*Vienna Symphony Orchestra
conducted by Fritz Busch

XR remastering by Andrew Rose

Cover artwork based on a photograph of (L-R) Fritz Busch, Marcel Prawy, Dr. Hans Sachs

Special thanks to Dr. Jürgen Schaarwächter

Produced in co-operation with the Max-Reger-Institut/BuschBrothersArchive, Karlsruhe, Germany

Total duration: 2hr 14:24 (CD1: 70:42 CD2: 63:42)

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