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PASC 622

## Fritz Busch

conducts Haydn in Copenhagen

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XR

The music of Joseph Haydn accompanied Fritz Busch all through his conducting life, although it was in total only an exceedingly small portion of Haydn's output. And the number of recorded Haydn works by Busch is even smaller, consisting of performances and studio recordings from Copenhagen and Vienna (the latter recording of Symphony No. 101 see PASC 614). The oratorios *Die Schöpfung* and *Die Jahreszeiten* were recorded only in extracts, and it was not until the introduction of the LP that complete recordings were released commercially. Busch was not to profit from this development – only few extracts from *Die Schöpfung* and *Die Jahreszeiten* have survived in the Danish Radio archives (with copies in Busch's private archive and elsewhere). It was customary in the 1930s in Copenhagen to record but extracts from larger works – only fairly few complete live recordings from the early time have survived. In both cases it is interesting to look into the choice of soloists. For *Die Schöpfung* Busch chose soloists who had been part of his Dresden operatic ensemble or with whom he had collaborated at Salzburg, Glyndebourne or Buenos Aires. Soprano Erna Berger had been one of the few members of staff supportive of Busch's upon his discharge from the Dresden State Opera, and Alexander Kipnis was a well-loved bass singer who took all major roles in the Buenos Aires seasons of German opera. Julius Patzak, who became a famous Bach evangelist and has sung Uriel in two complete recordings of *Die Schöpfung* (conducted by Clemens Krauss and Jascha Horenstein respectively), was scheduled to perform in Buenos Aires in 1937. Irmgard Seefried was Busch's Susanna in Vienna in October 1950, while Erik Sjöberg, who premiered Britten's *Peter Grimes* in Copenhagen in 1947 and who was appointed a kammersanger in 1951, was a tenor highly esteemed by Birgit Nilsson. Baritone singer Einar Nørby, who had made his debut in 1928 at the Copenhagen Royal Opera, had become a kammersanger in 1938; in 1955 he sang (in Danish) in Sir Thomas Beecham's recording of Frederick Delius' *Arabesque*.

Busch had settled in Denmark in 1934 but fled from the Nazis in 1940 in a haste, leaving much of his musical scores behind. In 1946 he returned to Denmark in order to continue his working with the Statsradiofonien Symfoniorkester. The new concert hall in the Radihuset had been completed by 1945, being one of the first of its kind to open after the war. On 4 and 6-7 November 1949 Busch was to record Haydn's Symphony in G major Hob. I:88 (plus Mozart's 'Linz' Symphony K425, which Busch had already recorded previously with the BBC Symphony Orchestra in March 1934) for the Skandinavisk Grammophon A.B., the Danish branch of His Master's Voice. The recordings made in 1949 were so successful that all copies had been sold out in the US before Christmas; additional recording sessions were scheduled for 26 and 27 January 1951, when next to Haydn's Sinfonia concertante (with orchestral soloists) three Contre-Dances by Mozart were recorded.

Jürgen Schaarwächter

Max-Reger-Institut with BuschBrothersArchive, Karlsruhe

PASC 622

busch  
haydn in copenhagen

symphony no. 88  
sinfonia concertante  
the creation - excerpts  
the seasons - excerpts

erna berger, soprano  
irmgard seefried, soprano  
julius patzak, tenor  
erik sjöberg, tenor  
einar nørby, baritone  
alexander kipnis, bass

statsradiofonien kor  
radio-koret  
statsradiofonien symfoniorkester  
conducted by fritz busch

live & studio recordings, 1934-1951

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## HAYDN Die Schöpfung (*The Creation*) Hob. XXI:2 *excerpts*

1. Und Gott sprach - Auf starkem Fittiche (7:38)
  2. Und Gott sprach - Gleich öffnet sich (4:15)
  3. Und Gott schuf den Menschen - Mit Würd' und Hoheit angetan (4:15)
- Erna Berger (soprano),  
Julius Patzak (tenor),  
Alexander Kipnis (bass)  
Statsradiofonien Kor  
Live concert performance, Odd Fellow Palæets store Sal, Copenhagen 6 December 1934

## HAYDN Symphony No. 88 in G major Hob. I:88

4. 1st mvt. - Adagio - Allegro (7:00)
  5. 2nd mvt. - Largo (6:44)
  6. 3rd mvt. - Minuet - Trio (4:25)
  7. 4th mvt. - Finale. Allegro con spirito (3:33)
- Skandinavisk Grammophon A.B. studio recording performance, Statsradiofonien, Koncertsalen, Copenhagen 4 & 6-7 November 1949

Statsradiofonien Symfoniorkester  
conducted by Fritz Busch

## HAYDN Sinfonia Concertante in B flat major Hob. I:105

8. 1st mvt. - Allegro (9:13)
  9. 2nd mvt. - Andante (4:57)
  10. 3rd mvt. - Allegro con spirito (6:45)
- Waldemar Wolsing (oboe)  
Carl Bloch (bassoon)  
Leon Hansen (violin)  
Alberto Medici (violoncello)  
Skandinavisk Grammophon A.B. studio recording performance, Statsradiofonien, Koncertsalen, Copenhagen 26-27 January 1951

## HAYDN Die Jahreszeiten (*The Seasons*) Hob. XXI:3 *rehearsals*

11. Rehearsal Introduction (0:17)
  12. Wo sind sie nun, die Wonnetage (1:49)
  13. Rehearsal interlude 1 (0:27)
  14. Dann bricht der große Morgen an (5:57)
  15. Rehearsal interlude 2 (0:20)
  16. Erhört ist unser Flehn (1:02)
  17. O wie lieblich ist der Anblick (10:51)
- Irmgard Seefried (soprano)  
Erik Sjöberg (tenor)  
Einar Nørby (baritone)  
Radio-Koret  
Statsradiofonien, Koncertsalen, Copenhagen rehearsal for live concert performance, 8 February 1951

XR Remastered by **Andrew Rose**

Cover artwork based on a photograph of Fritz Busch taken in Copenhagen, c.1940

Special thanks to Dr. **Jürgen Schaarwächter**

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