

Fritz Busch

In Copenhagen: Mozart, Bach, Dvořák, Weber

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The collaboration of Fritz Busch with the orchestra of the Danish Statsradiofonien goes well back into the 1930s – in 1937 he was appointed Principal Conductor – and it is striking when in the concert review of 18 January 1951 the *Nationaltidende* at length reports: "Fritz Busch is back, and last night he bestowed the Thursday concert again with his distinctive imprint. How he is jumping around with the orchestra! He knows each and every one of the excellent musicians, and they know him and what each of his gestures means, from the very small movements to the big explosions - and the orchestra obeys his word." After the war, however, the good cooperation clouded over, not least because other conductors who had stayed in Europe had taken his place.

The present disc particularly focuses on music by Mozart, containing not just all the Mozart studio recordings that Busch made for the Swiss firm Turicaphon and for His Master's Voice, but also a couple of surviving live performances, from as early as 1933 to 1935. Sadly neither the Mozart Piano Concerto (the only recorded rendering of Busch together with his nephew-in-law, Rudolf Serkin) nor the Bach E major Violin Concerto (the only recorded rendering of a Bach concerto performed by Fritz and his brother Adolf together) have survived complete; in addition to these fragments we have Dvořák's *Karneval* overture in Busch's 1933 rendering (another, 1950 live performance with the same orchestra, taped at the Edinburgh festival, has been published elsewhere). And it is apt to accompany this performance with the 1948 studio recording of Weber's *Freischütz* Overture. Studio recordings of the orchestra with Busch for record companies were made only from 1947, beginning with Brahms's Second Symphony (PASC 570) and ending in January 1951 with Haydn's *Sinfonia concertante* (PASC 622) and, as a filler for the last shellac side, three *Kontretänze* by Mozart. Busch had recorded orchestral *Deutsche Tänze* and *Kontretänze* by Mozart from as early as c. 1920, and he may have particularly liked them as he saw in them freshness and invention combined even in the smallest miniature, may in them indeed have recalled his beginnings as a child playing dance music in the local pubs. The three *Deutsche Tänze* he had recorded in 1948, accompanying the 'Kleine Nachtmusik', were, like the *Freischütz* Overture, released only with much delay, Busch frequently having to ask the Zurich-based company Turicaphon for reference copies. Nor was he happy with His Master's Voice, who by 1949 were running short of funds and paid Busch as little as possible. The 1949 'Linz' Symphony is Busch's second studio recording of the work, the other one having been made with the B.B.C. Symphony Orchestra in London in 1934.

For a considerable period Busch had made Denmark his home, and even after he had to flee from Europe in 1940 he kept in constant contact with the orchestra. He did not claim all of his scores and performing materials, which remained safe and secure in the Copenhagen Statsradiofonien's archives until after his death.

Jürgen Schaarwächter

Max-Reger-Institut with BuschBrothersArchive, Karlsruhe



busch

in copenhagen

1. **WEBER** Der Freischütz, Op. 77, Overture (8:20)
Studio rec. 22 October 1948, Statsradiofonien, Koncertsalen

MOZART Piano Concerto No. 21 in C major, K.467

2. 1st mvt. - Allegro maestoso (fragment 1) (2:36)

3. 1st mvt. - Allegro maestoso (fragment 2) (3:55)

Rudolf Serkin, piano

Live rec. 10 January 1935, Statsradiofonbygningen, Teatersalen

MOZART Deutsche Tänze, K571

4. No. 1 (2:07)

5. No. 5 (1:21)

6. No. 6 (2:07)

Studio rec. 22 October 1948, Statsradiofonien, Koncertsalen

MOZART Kontretänze, K609

7. No. 1 (0:59)

8. No. 2 (0:51)

9. No. 4 (2:05)

Studio rec. 27 January 1951, Statsradiofonien, Koncertsalen

Radio-Symfoniorkestret
conducted by **Fritz Busch**

XR Remastered by **Andrew Rose**

Cover artwork based on a photograph of Fritz Busch taken in 1951

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MOZART Symphony No. 36 in C major, K425 'Linz'

10. 1st mvt. - Adagio - Allegro spiritoso (7:25)

11. 2nd mvt. - Andante con moto (7:12)

12. 3rd mvt. - Menuetto (3:32)

13. 4th mvt. - Presto (5:04)

Studio rec. 7 November 1949, Statsradiofonien, Koncertsalen

MOZART Serenade No. 13 in G major, K525

'Eine kleine Nachtmusik'

14. 1st mvt. - Allegro (4:19)

15. 2nd mvt. - Romanze. Andante (4:40)

16. 3rd mvt. - Menuetto. Allegretto (1:57)

17. 4th mvt. - Rondo. Allegro (4:09)

Studio rec. 23 & 24 October 1948, Statsradiofonien, Koncertsalen

18. **BACH** Violin Concerto in E major, BWV 1042

III. Allegro assai (2:47)

Adolf Busch, violin

Live rec. 29 November 1934, Statsradiofonbygningen, Teatersalen

19. **DVORÁK** Karneval, Concert Overture, Op. 92 (9:20)

Live rec. 23 November 1933, Statsradiofonbygningen, Teatersalen