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EDWIN FISCHER TRIO

Beethoven and Brahms Piano Trios

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Edwin Fischer first formed his trio in 1935. Enrico Mainardi was the cellist and was to remain thus for the remainder of the trio's existence but the original violinist was Georg Kulenkampff. The three original members proved congenial. Fischer and Mainardi were duo partners and Mainardi and Kulenkampff often played Brahms' Double Concerto together (they recorded it as well in a fine reading). The name of Adolf Busch has sometimes been used as a stick with which to beat Kulenkampff in respect of selfless altruism and moral scruple during the Nazi's rise to power – but what is true in this context, concerning Mainardi, is that his career in Germany in the thirties flourished in direct proportion to the enforced emigration of leading cellists. The trio carried on after the war, by which time Kulenkampff and Fischer were living in Switzerland and on the violinist's sudden death in 1948, Wolfgang Schneiderhan took over. The original trio made no discs and as far as is known no live recordings have survived either. The new trio however was taped on a number of occasions in concerts both by Bavarian Radio and, as here, at the Mozarteum in Salzburg. Paul Badura-Skoda made these private recordings.

Jonathan Woolf, *MusicWeb International*, July 2003, *review of Music & Arts issue, excerpt*

Producer's Note

In Paul Badura-Skoda's notes to the Fonit Cetra LP issue of this concert, from which the present transfer was drawn, he observes: "Unfortunately it must be observed that the tone balance does not always match the sound I personally heard in the concert hall. Unhappily the microphone had been placed just in front of the violin and also close to the cello, so that the sound of the piano seems to come from a distant background. Probably the sound technician had noted that generally the pianist in a chamber group plays too loudly. But in Fischer's case the very opposite was true. The spiritual force can nevertheless still be felt, even though the listener's imagination must supply what cannot be heard."

Although it is not within the bounds of technology today to alter the microphone placement of a recording made 60 years ago, it's instructive to note the difference that XR remastering has made to the overall impression of balance here. The original recording was clear but lacking in body, both from the cello and, in particular the full-bodied sound of the piano which helps so much to round out the overall sonic texture of the ensemble. Restoring these hidden frequencies makes a huge difference to the impression one receives from the performances themselves, which take on far more life and immediacy. Note that the Schumann *Piano Trio No. 1*, also performed at the same concert, was too long to fit onto CD - it can be downloaded at no cost from our website.

Andrew Rose

FULL PROGRAMME NOTES CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM
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EDWIN FISCHER TRIO

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Beethoven

Piano Trio No. 5, "Ghost"

Brahms

Piano Trio No. 1



Edwin Fischer
Wolfgang Schneiderhan
Enrico Mainardi

LIVE CONCERT RECORDINGS, 1953

XR remastering by **Andrew Rose**

Cover artwork based on a
photograph of the
Edwin Fischer Trio

Beethoven & Brahms Piano Trios
Recorded 8 August 1953
at the Mozarteum, Salzburg
A Bavarian Radio recording

Transcribed from Fonit Cetra DOC 35

Schumann Piano Trio
A recording from the same concert of
Schumann's Piano Trio No. 1 in D minor,
Op. 83, was too long to fit onto this CD
release. It is available as a free download in
a variety of high quality formats here:
www.pristineclassical.com/pacm088.html

Total duration: **58:58**

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EDWIN FISCHER TRIO *Piano Trios*

BEETHOVEN Piano Trio No. 5 in D, "Ghost", Op. 70, No. 1

- 1 1st mvt. - Allegro vivace e con brio (8:01)
- 2 2nd mvt. - Largo assai et espressione (10:01)
- 3 3rd mvt. - Presto (6:59)

BRAHMS Piano Trio No. 1 in B, Op. 8

- 4 1st mvt. - Allegro con brio (10:58)
- 5 2nd mvt. - Scherzo: Allegro molto - Trio: Meno allegro (6:06)
- 6 3rd mvt. - Adagio (9:40)
- 7 4th mvt. - Finale: Allegro (7:13)

Edwin Fischer *piano*
Wolfgang Schneiderhan *violin*
Enrico Mainardi *cello*