

COMPACT
disc
DIGITAL AUDIO
PACO 077

Toscanini

Fidelio

PRISTINE
AUDIO
XR

Jan Peerce (*tenor*) - Florestano
Rose Bampton (*soprano*) - Leonora
Nicola Moscona (*bass*) - Don Fernando
Herbert Janssen (*bass*) - Don Pizarro
Sidor Belarsky (*bass*) - Rocco
Eleanor Steber (*soprano*) - Marcellina
Joseph Laderoute (*tenor*) - Giacchino

This isn't music-making for the timid, used to the sanitized, faultless performances on your everyday CD. In its raw, unvarnished way, it is daring, fierce, mesmerizing, to be heard when you're feeling strong of spirit and mind.

Toscanini views Fidelio and indeed Leonore No. 3 as stark drama, devoid of sentimentality. The winds leap from the speakers, the brass blare ferociously as the old wizard tells a story of the struggle for freedom in a year when, even in the United States, events far away in Europe must have felt very present. In achieving his end, he demands and mostly receives superhuman efforts from his charges: speeds are nervously fast, rhythms alert, as though the events were happening in the conductor's presence. The wind section is prominent in a way we have since heard from Norrington in Beethoven, indubitably influenced by his predecessor. An occasional untidiness is a price worth paying for such an edge-of-your-seat interpretation. Inevitably the epithet 'hard-driven' has been used about the performance: a visionary conductor, inclined to the dictatorial, demands much from his performers and listeners. No compromises can be made. We won't always want to hear the score done like this; once in a way, it is cleansing and salutary.

A.B., Gramophone October 1992 - *review excerpt*

Transfer notes

The broadcasts from which this recording originated were transmitted a week apart, and the normal mid-programme talk was omitted in order to fit each act into a one-hour slot. Also omitted was almost all dialogue, with the opera staged more as a concert piece than a staged work. An error by soprano Rose Bampton in the *Alberich* led to a re-recording of this at an RCA Toscanini recording session in Carnegie Hall the following June 14th, and it is this version which RCA subsequently used in their releases of the recording - we have stayed with this version for our issue. The sound quality of the original recording was adequate, but huge strides forward have been made with the application of 32-bit XR remastering, which has particularly favoured the solo voices here. Although the frequency range tops out at around 10kHz, there is plenty of 'air' and brightness to be heard, albeit with a degree of background hiss at times. I was also able, for the first time, to iron out some quite pronounced pitch variations caused by the original recording equipment drifting up and down in speed. AR

FULL PROGRAMME NOTES CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM
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COMPACT
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Toscanini

conducts

Beethoven's

FIDELIO

with

Jan Peerce
Rose Bampton
Nicola Moscona
Herbert Janssen
Sidor Belarsky
Eleanor Steber
Joseph Laderoute

Chorus directed by Peter Wilhousky

NBC Symphony Orchestra
Live Broadcasts, 10 & 17 December, 1944

PRISTINE
AUDIO
XR



Beethoven Fidelio

CD1 Act One

- 1 Ouverture.mp3 (6:23)
- 2 No. 1 Duett - Jetzt, Schätzchen (4:18)
- 3 No. 2 Arie - O wär ich schon (3:29)
- 4 No. 3 Quartett - Mir ist so wunderbar (4:12)
- 5 No. 4 Arie - Hat man nicht (2:20)
- 6 No. 5 Terzett - Gut, Söhnchen (5:40)
- 7 No. 6 Marsch (1:13)
- 8 No. 7 Arie mit Chor (2:44)
- 9 No. 8 Duett - Jetzt, Alter, hat es Eile! (4:24)
- 10 No. 9 Rezitativ und Arie - Abscheulicher! (7:11)
- 11 No. 10 Finale - O welche Lust, in freier Luft (5:37)
- 12 Nun spricht, wie ging's (7:02)
- 13 Leb wohl, du warmes Sonnenlicht (3:00)

CD2 Act Two

- 1 No. 11 Introduktion und Arie - Gott! Welch Dunkel hier! (8:52)
- 2 No. 12 Melodram und Duett - Wie kalt ist es in diesem unterirdischen Gewölbe! (6:00)
- 3 No. 13 Terzett - Euch werde Lohn in bessern Welten (5:40)
- 4 No. 14 Quartett - Er sterbe! Doch er soll erst wissen (4:33)
- 5 No. 15 Duett - O namenlose Freude! (2:28)
- 6 Ouverture - Leonore III (13:02)
- 7 No. 16 Finale - Heil sei dem Tag (13:01)

NBC Symphony Orchestra Arturo Toscanini

XR remastering by **Andrew Rose**

Transfers from RCA LPs AT 204

Cover artwork based on a
photograph of **Rose Bampton**

Act 1 transmitted 10th December 1944

Act 2 transmitted 17th December 1944
NBC Studio 8H, New York City

Abscheulicher recorded 14 June 1945
Carnegie Hall, New York City

Total duration: 1hr 51:08

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