

**TALICH CONDUCTS
TCHAIKOVSKY**
CZECH PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
CONDUCTED BY VACLAV TALICH

Piano Concerto No. 1 in B-flat minor, Op. 83

- 1 1st mvt. - Allegro non troppo e molto maestoso (18:28)
- 2 2nd mvt. - Andantino semplice (7:07)
- 3 3rd mvt. - Allegro con fuoco (7:11)

Violin Concerto in D major, Op. 35

- 4 1st mvt. - Allegro moderato (16:57)
- 5 2nd mvt. - Canzonetta: Andante (6:36)
- 6 3rd mvt. - Finale: Allegro vivacissimo (9:33)

Tracks 1-3: Recorded 1st April, 1940 in the National Theatre, Prague
Matrix nos: 2KA 4608-2, 4609-2, 4610-2, 4611-2, 4612-3, 4615-1, 4616-1 and 4617-2
First issued on Electrola DB 5584 through 5587

Tracks 4-6: Recorded July, 1941 in the National Theatre, Prague
Matrix nos.: CRX 147-2, 148-1, 149-1, 150-2, 151-1, 152-2, 153-2 and 154-1
First issued on German Columbia LWX 349 through 352

Producer and Audio Restoration Engineer: Mark Obert-Thorn
Cover artwork based on a photograph of Václav Talich

Total duration: 65:52 © 2009 Pristine Audio.

TALICH CONDUCTS TCHAIKOVSKY
THE RARE WARTIME CONCERTO RECORDINGS



PIANO CONCERTO NO. 1
WITH WINFRIED WOLF

VIOLIN CONCERTO
WITH WOLFGANG SCHNEIDERHAN

VACLAV TALICH · CZECH PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
RECORDED 1940 – 1941

Obert-Thorn

PRISTINE
AUDIO

PRISTINE
AUDIO

TALICH CONDUCTS
TCHAIKOVSKY
CZECH PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
CONDUCTED BY VACLAV TALICH

COMPACT
disc
DIGITAL AUDIO

PASC138

TALICH CONDUCTS TCHAIKOVSKY
WOLF, SCHNEIDERMAN, TALICH, CZECH PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

PASC 138

TALICH CONDUCTS TCHAIKOVSKY
WOLF, SCHNEIDERMAN, TALICH, CZECH PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

PASC 138

PRISTINE
AUDIO

Václav Talich (May 28, 1883 – March 16, 1961) was a Czech conductor, violinist and pedagogue. Born in Kroměříž, Moravia, he started his musical career in a student orchestra in Klatovy. From 1897 to 1903 he studied at the conservatory in Prague with Otakar Ševčík. For a short period he was the concertmaster of the Berlin Philharmonic, and he was so fascinated by the chief conductor Arthur Nikisch, that he decided to become a conductor himself. His conducting career started in Tbilisi. From 1915 to 1918 he performed as a violist of the Czech Quartet. His career with the Czech Philharmonic started on 30 October 1918 with the poem Zrání (The Ripening) by Josef Suk. From 1919 to 1941 he became chief conductor of the Czech Philharmonic, raising them to internationally respected levels and touring widely with them. During World War II, in a very difficult situation, he tried to support Czech culture, but after the war was accused of collaboration with the Germans. However, the accusations were refuted and he started to conduct again in 1946. In 1946, he established the Czech Chamber Orchestra, with students of the Prague Conservatory.

In 1935, he was also appointed chief opera administrator at the Czech National Theatre, where he promoted specially works of Leoš Janáček, some of whose works he premiered. He was forced to leave when it was closed by the Germans during World War II, took up the post again after the end of the war, but was fired following disagreements with the government in 1947. He took the post up again shortly thereafter, and was then fired once again in 1948 after the Communist party took over the country. Subsequently, he became conductor of the newly formed Slovak Philharmonic in Bratislava. In November 1954, he conducted his last public performance with the Czech Philharmonic. He spent the last years of his life in Beroun, Czechoslovakia. In 1957 he became a National Artist, the highest distinction in Czechoslovakia.

Particularly noted for his interpretations of Czech composers such as Antonín Dvořák, Bedřich Smetana and Josef Suk, Talich also did much to bring the operas of Leoš Janáček into the standard repertoire. Talich also taught a good deal, with Charles Mackerras, Karel Ančerl or Milan Munclinger among his pupils.

Producer's Note: The present recordings are among Talich's rarest discs. Although the Violin Concerto has seen limited reissue on small labels, neither recording has ever been available on LP or CD from EMI or in any of Supraphon's Talich reissue series. (Tantalizingly, the conductor made his only recording of Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony at the same sessions as the Violin Concerto, but it was never released and the masters are presumed lost.) The Piano Concerto makes its first extended play appearance in any form here.

Despite the scarcity of the original discs, two copies of each album were assembled for these transfers, and the best portions of each side were used. Some blasting in the louder passages of the Piano Concerto was present on both copies and may be due to the use of inferior shellac during wartime rather than from wear.

Mark Obert-Thorn

NOTES FROM WIKIPEDIA - FULL NOTES ON THIS RECORDING CAN BE FOUND AT WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM