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HERMAN ABENDROTH

CONDUCTS BEETHOVEN, REGER, LISZT, DOHNANYI, SIBELIUS

Hermann Paul Maximilian Abendroth (19 January 1883 – 29 May 1956) was a German conductor.

After finishing his school studies at the Frankfort Gymnasium, Abendroth traveled to Munich for originally accomplishing the 1-year-long studies of librarian, but he instead followed the music career at the conservatory of Munich, the Münchner Konservatorium, from 1900 to 1903, studying theory and composition with Ludwig Thuille, piano with Anna Hirtzel-Langenham, and developing his conducting skills working with Felix Mottl.

Still as an undergraduate, Hermann Abendroth's first stable assignment of conducting was from 1903 to 1904, for the Orchestral Society of Munich. From 1905 to 1911, he moved to Lübeck, highlighting as the Kapellmeister of the Theater Lübeck. From 1911 to 1914, he was the Generalmusikdirektor (General music director) of the city of Essen. From 1915 to 1934 he was the Kapellmeister of the Gürzenich Orchestra Cologne, and then also director of the Cologne Conservatory (1925-1934), which indeed was reformed with his help, to become the Cologne Musikhochschule. He also became the general music director of Cologne in 1918, and was a professor in 1919. He also was the general music director of Bonn, from 1930 to 1933.

In 1922, Hermann Abendroth was the director of the Lower Rhenish Music Festival. He also was invited, to conduct in other countries as well. He visited the USSR and conducted the USSR-State Symphony Orchestra in 1925, 1927 and 1928. From 1926 to 1937, he visited England and regularly conducted the London Symphony Orchestra. Abendroth would be known for performing classical and romantic compositions, including Beethoven, Brahms, and Bruckner. Nonetheless, he conducted other contemporary pieces in their premieres, for instance for Bartok and Stravinsky.

In 1934, the Nazi Party seized the city council of Cologne, and then the liberally minded Abendroth was promptly removed from the public function and detained. Nonetheless other personalities of the arts interceded, and so Abendroth was restituted into the public function, to head the department of education of the Nazi Reichsmusikkammer. Accepting such charge, Abendroth would be much criticized, for relinquishing his ideals, nevertheless he formally joined the Nazi Party in 1937. In 1934, Hermann Abendroth was appointed Kapellmeister of the Gewandhausorchester Leipzig, replacing Bruno Walter, who was dismissed by the newly-installed Nazi authorities because of being Jewish. From 1934 to 1945, Abendroth also was professor of the Leipzig conservatory (1941-1945 Leipzig Musikhochschule). In 1943 and 1944, he starred the traditional Bayreuth Festival, conducting Die Meistersinger, its only piece for those two years, whereas Adolf Hitler had officialized and organized the festivity. *[Notes from Wikipedia, continued online]*

Producer's Note

Abendroth's Beethoven Fifth was set down during the same month that Furtwängler's classic prewar HMV set was completed, and featured the same orchestra. It has been transferred here from British Parlophone shellacs. The rare wartime Paris set of the Reger Mozart Variations (presented as issued, sans Fugue) was, rather unusually, recorded by Odeon for release on French HMV. The dim, hissy sound is inherent in the original recording, although I have tried to bring out as much detail as exists in the shellacs. The first Liszt Hungarian Rhapsody came from a laminated Australian Parlophone disc, while the remaining items were transferred from German Odeon pressings. Some inner-groove distortion will be noticeable due to the high recording volume levels at the ends of the works.

Mark Obert-Thorn, reissue producer

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ABENDROTH CONDUCTS

BEETHOVEN

SYMPHONY NO. 5 IN C MINOR

REGER

VARIATIONS ON A THEME OF MOZART

LISZT

HUNGARIAN RHAPSODY NO. 1
HUNGARIAN RHAPSODY NO. 2

DOHNANYI

WEDDING WALTZ, THE VEIL OF PIERRETTE

SIBELIUS

FINLANDIA

BERLIN PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
BERLIN STATE OPERA ORCHESTRA
PARIS CONSERVATOIRE ORCHESTRA

RECORDED 1936 – 1942



HERMANN ABENDROTH CONDUCTS

BEETHOVEN: SYMPHONY No. 5 IN C MINOR, OP. 67

- 1 1st mvt. - *Allegro con brio* (6:13)
- 2 2nd mvt. - *Andante con moto* (10:19)
- 3 3rd mvt. - *Allegro* (5:04)
- 4 4th mvt. - *Allegro* (8:16)

Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra Recorded 22nd November, 1937 in Berlin
Matrix nos.: xxNSK 23, 24, 25, 26, 27-2, 28, 29 and 30. First issued on Odeon O-7898 through 7901

- 5 **REGER** *Variations on a Theme of Mozart, Op. 132* (17:18)

Orchestre de la Société des Concerts du Conservatoire, Paris Recorded 6th May, 1942 in Paris
Matrix nos.: 2LA 3664-1, 3665-1, 3666-1 and 3667-1. First issued on Disque Gramophone DB 5197 and 5198

- 6 **LISZT** (arr. Müller/Berghaus) *Hungarian Rhapsody No. 1* (8:13)

Berlin State Opera Orchestra Recorded 19th June, 1937 in the Philharmonie, Berlin
Matrix nos.: xxB 8617 and 8618. First issued on Odeon O-7734

- 7 **LISZT** (arr. Müller) *Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2* (8:53)

Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra Recorded 1st October, 1938 in the Philharmonie, Berlin
Matrix nos.: xxB 8575 and 8576. First issued on Odeon O-7887

- 8 **DOHNÁNYI** *Wedding Waltz from The Veil of Pierrette (Ballet Suite)* (5:34)

Berlin State Opera Orchestra Recorded 19th June, 1937 in the Philharmonie, Berlin
Matrix nos.: Be 11723 and 11724. First issued on Odeon O-4759

- 9 **SIBELIUS** *Finlandia, Op. 26* (7:55)

Berlin State Opera Orchestra Recorded 2nd October, 1936 in Berlin
Matrix nos.: xxNSK 14 and 15. First issued on Odeon O-7896

Hermann Abendroth, conductor



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Producer and Audio
Restoration Engineer:
Mark Obert-Thorn

Cover artwork based
on a photograph of
Hermann Abendroth

Total duration: **77:45**

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