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BRUCKNER

SYMPHONIES NOS. 6 IN A AND 7 IN E

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Symphony No. 6 in A Major by Austrian composer Anton Bruckner (1824–1896) is a work in four movements composed between September 24, 1879 and September 3, 1881 and dedicated to his landlord, Dr. Anton van Ölzelt-Newin. Though it possesses many characteristic features of a Bruckner symphony, it differs the most from the rest of his symphonic repertory. Redlich went so far as to cite the lack of hallmarks of Bruckner's symphonic compositional style in the Sixth Symphony for the somewhat bewildered reaction of supporters and critics alike.

According to Robert Simpson, though not commonly performed and often thought of as the ugly duckling of Bruckner's symphonic body of work, the Sixth Symphony nonetheless makes an immediate impression of rich and individual expressiveness; Its themes are exceptionally beautiful, its harmony has moments of both boldness and subtlety, its instrumentation is the most imaginative he [Bruckner] had yet achieved, and it possesses a mastery of classical form that might even have impressed Brahms.

Bruckner's Symphony No. 7 in E major (WAB 107) is one of his best-known symphonies. It was written between 1881 and 1883 and was revised in 1885. It is dedicated to Ludwig II of Bavaria. The premiere, given under Arthur Nikisch in the opera house at Leipzig in 1884, brought Bruckner the greatest success he had known in his life. The symphony is sometimes referred to as the "Lyric", though the appellation is not the composer's own, and is seldom used.

These notes and more: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphony_No._6_\(Bruckner\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphony_No._6_(Bruckner)) and [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphony_No._7_\(Bruckner\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphony_No._7_(Bruckner))
Full scores for both symphonies are available for free download at The International Music Score Library Project: <http://imslp.org>

Recording and restoration notes

It is most unfortunate that no recording of the first movement of Furtwängler's performance of Bruckner's Symphony No. 6 survives, as for many aficionados, what remains of it in the second, third and fourth movements add up to one of the greatest performances ever captured for posterity. As with many of Furtwängler's finest live wartime recordings, the symphony was taped for radio rebroadcast. These tapes went east after the fall of the Nazi regime at the end of the war, only to re-emerge some years later on Russian Melodiya LP releases. It is a reasonable assumption that a tape of the missing movement once existed - but alas it has never been found and must be assumed permanently lost or destroyed.

It seemed a reasonable idea to group this incomplete recording with another - Furtwängler's only studio recording of music by Bruckner, made the previous year for release on Telefunken 78s. The recording, through no fault either of conductor or composer, has a certain notoriety by association - the movement was a particular favourite of Hitler's, and it was this recording that was broadcast on German radio following his death in 1945.

From a restorer's point of view, the Sixth has a little more going for it than the Seventh, thanks to the medium in which it has been preserved. Although magnetic tape was still very much in its infancy in the early 1940s, and microphones of the era were rather inadequate for the sonic opportunities it offered, it still managed to capture and hold a wider frequency and dynamic range than the wartime Telefunken shellac discs, allowing for a brighter overall sound - though it is interesting to hear subtle differences in sound quality between the movements of the 6th, raising possible questions about precisely when each was recorded.

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

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BRUCKNER

SYMPHONY

NO 6 IN A
(MOVEMENTS 2-4)

SYMPHONY

NO 7 IN E
(2ND MOVEMENT)

WILHELM

FURTWÄNGLER

CONDUCTING THE
BERLIN PHILHARMONIC
ORCHESTRA

LIVE AND STUDIO
RECORDINGS 1942-43

Furtwängler conducts Bruckner

BRUCKNER Symphony No. 6 in A major, WAB106

1881 Version. Ed. Robert Haas [1935]

- 1 2nd mvt. - Adagio. *Sehr feierlich* (16:28)
- 2 3rd mvt. - Scherzo. *Nicht schnell - Trio. Langsam* (7:42)
- 3 4th mvt. - Finale. *Bewegt, doch nicht zu schnell* (12:32)

Recorded 13-16 November, 1943, Alte Philharmonie, Berlin

BRUCKNER Symphony No. 7 in E major, WAB107

1885 Version with some Modifications by Bruckner. Ed. Albert Gutmann

- 1 2nd mvt. - Adagio. *Sehr feierlich und sehr langsam* (22:51)

Recorded 1 April, 1942, Alte Philharmonie, Berlin

Issued as Telefunken SK 3230-32

Matrix numbers: 026378 - 83

Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra
conducted by **Wilhelm Furtwängler**



XR remastering by **Andrew Rose**

Cover artwork based on a
photograph of **Willem Furtwängler**

Total duration: **59:33**

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