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# BEETHOVEN

## SYMPHONY NO. 9 IN D MINOR, "CHORAL"

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The Symphony No. 9 in D minor, Op. 125 "Choral" is the final complete symphony of Ludwig van Beethoven. Completed in 1824, the symphony is one of the best known works of the Western classical repertoire, and has been adapted for use as the European Anthem. It is considered by critics to be one of Beethoven's masterpieces and one of the greatest musical compositions ever written.

The symphony was the first example of a major composer using voices in a symphony. The words are sung during the final movement by four vocal soloists and a chorus. They were taken from the "Ode to Joy", a poem written by Friedrich Schiller in 1785 and revised in 1803, with additions made by the composer. The Philharmonic Society of London originally commissioned the symphony in 1817. Beethoven started the work in 1818 and finished early in 1824. However, both the words and notes of the symphony have sources dating from earlier in Beethoven's career.

*These notes and more:* [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphony\\_No.\\_9\\_\(Beethoven\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphony_No._9_(Beethoven))  
*Full scores are available for free download at The International Music Score Library Project:* <http://imslp.org>

#### Recording and restoration notes

Willem Mengelberg and the Concertgebouw Orchestra were recorded on a number of occasions by AVRO using high quality glass acetate discs, which produced significantly better results than those normally obtained by shellac discs of the era, with a much wider dynamic and frequency range than was usual at the time. Many of Mengelberg's AVRO recordings have long been available on LP and, later, CD, and their sonic advantages have been immediately clear to listeners for decades.

However, using standard flat replay systems to produce those LPs and CDs has only told perhaps half of the story - the recordings gently rolled off both higher and lower frequencies. However, these essential details are often still intact, buried in the recordings as if awaiting a remastering method capable of extracting them and restoring their original levels.

This is, of course, precisely what Pristine's XR remastering system excels at, and I've been able to bring out a pleasing amount of detail in the high treble, often extending right up to near 20kHz. At times this detail is astonishingly clean and clear, but elsewhere it is marred by a degree of hiss, requiring a delicate balance to be struck between the two.

Meanwhile the bottom end has seen considerable improvement, with a much fuller and richer sound than originally heard in the flat transfers. However much of the very lowest bass, below 100Hz, has been very poorly preserved where it exists at all, and these frequencies caused considerable problems in the restoration process. Indeed, much of what was present at these frequencies turned out to be rogue tones derived from interference at higher frequencies and had to be removed, along with a variety of unwanted bumps and thumps.

I was also required to carry out some judicious editing in the opening movement, where a small fragment of music was missing and a skip could be heard on my source discs which appeared to originate from the acetate masters. Fortunately I've been able to make a seamless repair by dropping in material from a repeated phrase, leaving the join hopelessly undetectable.

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FULL PROGRAMME NOTES CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT [WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM](http://WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM)

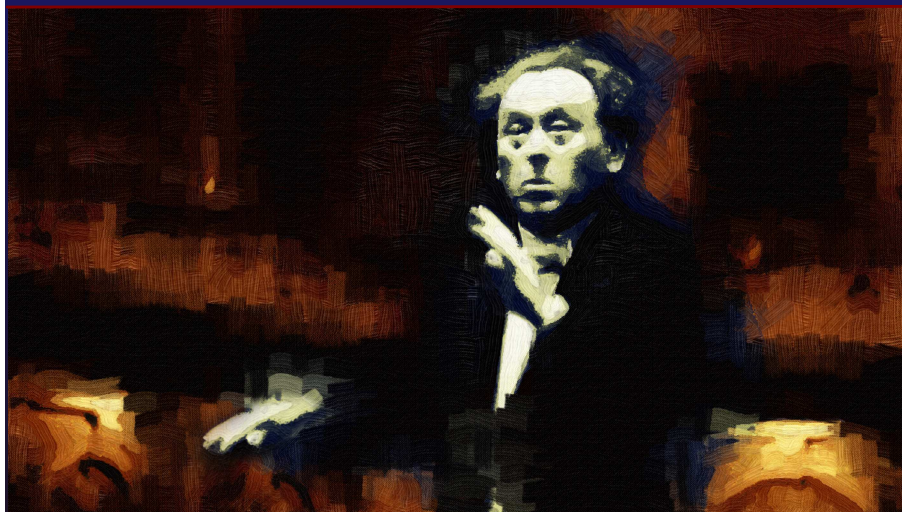
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# MENDELBERG

## CONCERTGEBOUW ORCHESTRA

PRISTINE  
AUDIO  
XR



# BEETHOVEN

## SYMPHONY NO. 9 IN D MINOR, OP. 125 "CHORAL"

TO VAN DER SLUYS, SUZE LUGER, LOUIS VAN TULDER, WILLEM RAVELLI  
AMSTERDAM TOONKUNST CHORUS - ROYAL ORATORIO SOCIETY

LIVE AT CONCERTGEBOUW, AMSTERDAM, 1940

## Mengelberg conducts Beethoven

### BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 9 in D minor, Op. 125 "Choral"

- 1 1st mvt. - Allegro ma non troppo, un poco maestoso (15:02)
- 2 2nd mvt. - Molto vivace (11:45)
- 3 3rd mvt. - Adagio e cantabile - Andante moderato (15:53)
- 4 4th mvt. - Presto - Allegro assai (26:07)

Recorded live at Royal Concertgebouw, Amsterdam, 2nd May 1940

To van der Sluys, *soprano*

Suze Luger, *alto*

Louis van Tulder, *tenor*

Willem Ravelli, *baritone*

Amsterdam Toonkunst Chorus

Royal Oratorio Society

Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra

conducted by Willem Mengelberg

XR remastering by **Andrew Rose**

Transfers from Philips LPs  
6597 015 & 6597 016  
from box set 6767 003

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

Total duration: **68:47**

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