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MAHLER

"RESURRECTION" SYMPHONY NO. 2 IN C MINOR

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The Symphony No. 2 by Gustav Mahler, known as the Resurrection, was written between 1888 and 1894, and first performed in 1895. Apart from the Eighth Symphony, this symphony was Mahler's most popular and successful work during his lifetime. It is his first major work that would eventually mark his lifelong view of the beauty of afterlife and resurrection. In this large work, the composer further developed the creativity of "sound of the distance" and creating a "world of its own", aspects already seen in his First Symphony.

Mahler completed what would become the first movement of the symphony in 1888 as a single-movement symphonic poem called Totenfeier (Death Celebration). Some sketches for the second movement also date from that year. Mahler wavered five years on whether to make Totenfeier the opening movement of a symphony, although his manuscript does label it as such. In 1893, he composed the second and third movements. The finale was the problem. While thoroughly aware he was inviting comparison with Ludwig van Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 (both use a chorus as the centerpiece of a much longer final movement, which begins with references to the earlier movements), Mahler knew he wanted a vocal final movement. Finding the right text for this movement proved long and perplexing...

Mahler devised a narrative programme for the work, which he told to a number of friends. In this programme, the first movement represents a funeral and asks questions such as "Is there life after death?"; the second movement is a remembrance of happy times in the life of the deceased; the third movement represents a view of life as meaningless activity; the fourth movement is a wish for release from life without meaning; and the fifth movement – after a return of the doubts of the third movement and the questions of the first – ends with a fervent hope for everlasting, transcendent renewal, a theme that Mahler would ultimately transfigure into the music of his sublime Das Lied von der Erde.

Full notes and more: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphony_No._2_\(Mahler\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphony_No._2_(Mahler))

Full score available for free download at The International Music Score Library Project: [http://imslp.org/wiki/Symphony_No.2_\(Mahler,_Gustav\)](http://imslp.org/wiki/Symphony_No.2_(Mahler,_Gustav))

Recording and restoration notes

Despite this recording being made well into the age of tape and widespread use of the magnetic recording medium, there were numerous clues to suggest that this recording was originally made onto pretty standard 12" 78rpm acetate discs by the Dutch radio station, Katholieke Radio Omroep, albeit well-made, well-preserved and quiet ones. Because the discs would have been cut on alternating machines, it was possible to see an increase in rumble below about 40Hz every other disc, with disc changes thus obvious at roughly 4-minute intervals. Furthermore some very light repetitive surface ticks at the start of the first movement indicated a speed of almost exactly 78rpm. Finally a side join during the first movement suffers slight phasing (which I've attempted to diminish) as the music crossfades from the end of one disc to the beginning of the next.

However, the biggest shortcoming of this recording lies in its frequency range, which pretty much gives up just above 10kHz, thus depriving the listener of the very high frequencies which give a sense of 'air' around a recording, as well as enhancing particularly the brightest brass and percussion. However, by a careful use of XR remastering's tonal rebalancing I've been able to create a much fuller, clearer sound than previously heard, one which greatly enhances the dynamic impact of this superb performance.

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

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KLEMPERER

JO VINCENT • KATHLEEN FERRIER

CONCERTGEBOUW ORCHESTRA

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MAHLER

SYMPHONY NO. 2 IN C MINOR, 'RESURRECTION'

LIVE AT THE AMSTERDAM FESTIVAL, 1951

Klemperer conducts Mahler

MAHLER Symphony No. 2 in C minor, "RESURRECTION"

- 1 1st mvt. - Allegro maestoso (17:42)
- 2 2nd mvt. - Andante moderato (9:28)
- 3 3rd mvt. - In ruhig fließender Bewegung (10:33)
- 4 4th mvt. - Urlicht - Sehr feierlich, aber schlicht (4:04)
- 5 5th mvt pt 1 - Im Tempo des Scherzos - Wild herausfahrend (12:42)
- 6 5th mvt pt 2 - Wieder zurueckhaltend - Langsam - Misterioso (16:57)

Jo Vincent, soprano

Kathleen Ferrier, contralto

Holland Festival Chorus

Concertgebouw Orchestra

conducted by **Otto Klemperer**

XR remastering by **Andrew Rose**

Cover artwork based on a
photograph of **Otto Klemperer**

Recorded 12th July, 1951
Holland Festival
Concertgebouw, Amsterdam

Total duration: **71:26**

For a full catalogue visit
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