

# Jascha Horenstein

## Beethoven Symphony No. 9 "Choral"

**Jascha Horenstein** (6 May [O.S. 24 April] 1898 - April 2, 1973) was a Ukraine-born American conductor. Horenstein was born in Kiev, Ukraine; his mother was Austrian. His family moved to Vienna in 1911 and he studied at the Vienna Academy of Music starting in 1916, with Joseph Marx (music theory) and Franz Schreker (composition). In 1920, he moved to Berlin and worked as an assistant to Wilhelm Furtwängler. During the 1920s he conducted the Vienna Symphony Orchestra and the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra. He became principal conductor of the Düsseldorf Opera in 1928, and then the company's Generalmusikdirektor in 1929. He had to resign his post in March 1933 after the rise of the Nazi Party. His Düsseldorf tenure was the only permanent musical directorship in his career. Forced as a Jew to flee the Nazis, he moved to the United States of America in 1940, and eventually became an American citizen. He taught at the New School for Social Research while in New York City.

Horenstein is particularly remembered as a champion of modern music and as a Mahler conductor, although his repertory as shown by discographies was quite wide. In 1929 he conducted the premiere of three movements of Alban Berg's *Lulu*, *Stille* in an arrangement for string orchestra. In 1950, he conducted the first Paris performance of Berg's *Wozzeck*.

Horenstein conducted the works of Anton Bruckner and Gustav Mahler throughout his career, and he also displayed ongoing interest in Carl Nielsen, whom he knew personally, at a time when these composers were unfashionable. For example, his 1952 Vox recording of Mahler's *Symphony No. 9* was the first studio recording, and the second commercial record, of that work. Several years later, he recorded the original version of Bruckner's *Symphony No. 9*. He made studio recordings of several of Mahler's symphonies at various points in his career, including Symphonies Nos. 1 and 3 with the London Symphony Orchestra. A number of radio archives hold broadcast archdecks of many of the other Mahler symphonies, as well as *Das Lied von der Erde*. In recent years, several of Horenstein's concert performances have been reissued on the BBC Legends label, including his celebrated 1959 Royal Albert Hall performance of Mahler's *Symphony No. 8* and his 1972 Manchester performance of Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde*.

Horenstein also recorded Robert Simpson's *Third Symphony* and music by Paul Hindemith and Richard Strauss during the last few years of his life. His opera recordings included Carl Nielsen's *Saul og David*. His final operatic, and British, engagement was his March 1973 performances at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden of Richard Wagner's *Parsifal*. It was during a performance of Nielsen's *Fifth Symphony* in Minneapolis in 1971 that Horenstein suffered a heart attack and was caught in mid-air by the leader of the orchestra. Though warned by his doctors to reduce his workload, he continued to conduct. At the time of his death, he was planning to conduct Mahler's Fifth, Sixth and Seventh.

*Notes from Wikipedia*

### Recording and restoration notes

Horenstein's Beethoven Nine is that rarest of things - a recording of the symphony which fitted onto a single LP, rather than the more common three sides. This was achieved both by having some quite lengthy sides - the label claims 33 minutes and 32 minutes duration, with a split, partly through the third movement - and by Horenstein conducting the work at a fair old rick. I compared it to a later recording by Solti, which runs to a more leisurely 76 and three-quarter minutes. Whilst their 2nd and 4th movements are relatively similar, Horenstein's first movement is nearly 3 minutes quicker than Solti's, and his third is almost 33% faster and thus five minutes shorter. In remastering, I discovered a huge amount of detail which the rather veiled 1956 production had left hidden, and the XR remastering restores a sparkling vitality to the music which matches Horenstein's pace and delivery well. I noted that the original LP production faded the master tape to silence between movements, and this has been done here as well - and I was able to take the opportunity to add some vital inter-movement breathing space. On my near-final pressing the second side presented a greater degree of surface swish than the first, which has been treated. I also excised an insect-like faint whistle which was audible for much of the first side, warbling around 4.5kHz. The end result is a particularly fine-sounding production of exceptional clarity. **AK**

FULL PROGRAMME NOTES CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT [WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM](http://WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM)  
SARL Pristine Audio, Le Bourg, 24610 St. Meard de Gurçon, France - Tel. (00) 33 653 621857  
[www.pristineclassical.com](http://www.pristineclassical.com)

# Horenstein

conducts

## BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 9 "Choral"



**Wilma Lipp** Soprano  
**Elisabeth Höngen** alto  
**Julius Patzak** Tenor  
**Otto Wiener** Bass

Singverein der Gesellschaft  
der Musikfreunde, Vienna  
Pro Musica Symphony, Vienna  
Recorded in Vienna 1956

PRISTINE  
AUDIO

PASC 293

BEETHOVEN SYMPHONY No. 9 'CHORAL' IN D MINOR, Op. 125  
HORENSTEIN, PRO MUSICA SYMPHONY

## Horenstein Beethoven Symphony No. 9 "Choral"

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

- 1 1st mvt. - Allegro ma non troppo, un poco maestoso (15:27)
- 2 2nd mvt. - Molto vivace (11:36)
- 3 3rd mvt. - Adagio e cantabile - Andante moderato (15:14)
- 4 4th mvt. - Presto - Allegro assai (23:45)

**Wilma Lipp** soprano

**Elizabeth Hoengen** alto

**Julius Patzak** tenor

**Otto Wiener** bass

**Singverein der Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde, Vienna**

**Pro Musica Symphony, Vienna** **Jascha Horenstein**

COMPACT  
disc  
DIGITAL AUDIO  
PASC 293

XR remastering by  
**Andrew Rose**

Transfers from Vox PL 10 000

Cover artwork based on  
a photograph of  
**Jascha Horenstein**

Recorded 6 February, 1956  
Konzerthaus, Vienna

Total duration: 66:02

For a full catalogue visit  
[www.pristineclassical.com](http://www.pristineclassical.com)  
or call : (00) 33 979 622713

© 2011 Pristine Audio

PRISTINE  
AUDIO

BEETHOVEN SYMPHONY No. 9 'CHORAL' IN D MINOR, Op. 125  
HORENSTEIN, PRO MUSICA SYMPHONY

PASC 293

PRISTINE  
AUDIO