



# Klemperer

## Brahms Symphonies Volume 1



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## The Brahms Symphonies

In this account of the First Symphony it is thrilling to have Klemperer's direct approach to Brahms presented at once with such sympathy and with such relentlessness. I had almost forgotten just what degree of power and intensity there are in the outer movements, and what refined playing from the Philharmonia Orchestra at its zenith, with superb string ensemble and magnificent solo work all round, not least from Alan Civil (I presume) on the horn in the last movement. And though the recording has not the luminous depth that you would expect of a modern recording, it is beautifully balanced, and Klemperer was a master at clarifying Brahmsian textures. This version has long held its own at full price in the catalogue, and it still has claims to being the finest performance available.

E. G., *The Gramophone*, December 1976 - review of LP reissue, excerpt

### Transfer notes

The classic 1956-57 Klemperer Brahms recordings, made with the Philharmonia Orchestra by EMI in London's Kingsway Hall, have long been regarded by many as perhaps the finest ever made. Happily the EMI engineers opted to record in stereo, at a time when far too many recordings were still being made in mono, and stereo reproduction in the home was limited to a very narrow range of open-reel tape machines.

For the day, the recordings stand up reasonably well, though as the 1976 review above demonstrates, as little as twenty years later they were showing their age, and so it's little surprise that 55 years after the event Klemperer's Brahms comes across as a little faded and dusty, if only in sound quality.

Happily this can now be rectified to quite stunning effect. 32-bit XR remastering has served here to bring a quality of sound unimaginable in 1957 to these recordings, shedding decades in the process, and revealing a depth, vibrancy and dynamism that previous issues simply failed to convey. **AR**



## Volume One

### Symphony No. 1

### Academic Festival Overture

**The Philharmonia Orchestra**  
Stereo studio recordings, 1956/57

FULL PROGRAMME NOTES CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT [WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM](http://WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM)  
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BRAMHMS SYMPHONY NO. 1 - ACADEMIC FESTIVAL OVERTURE  
KLEMPERER, THE PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA

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BRAMHMS SYMPHONY NO. 1 - ACADEMIC FESTIVAL OVERTURE  
KLEMPERER, THE PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA

XR remastering by  
**Andrew Rose**

Transfers from HMV  
box set SLS 804

**Symphony No. 1**  
Recorded 29, 31 October, 1  
November 1956, 28 March 1957

**Academic Festival Overture**  
Recorded 29 March 1957

Recorded at Kingsway Hall,  
London

Total duration: **54:01**

## Klemperer Brahms Volume 1

### Symphony No. 1 in C minor, Op.68

- 1 1st mvt. - Un poco sostenuto - Allegro (14:01)
- 2 2nd mvt. - Andante sostenuto (9:20)
- 3 3rd mvt. - Un poco allegretto e grazioso (4:38)
- 4 4th mvt. - Adagio - Più andante - Allegro non troppo ma con brio (15:59)

- 5 Academic Festival Overture, Op. 80 (10:03)

**The Philharmonia Orchestra Otto Klemperer**

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