



# Bruno Walter

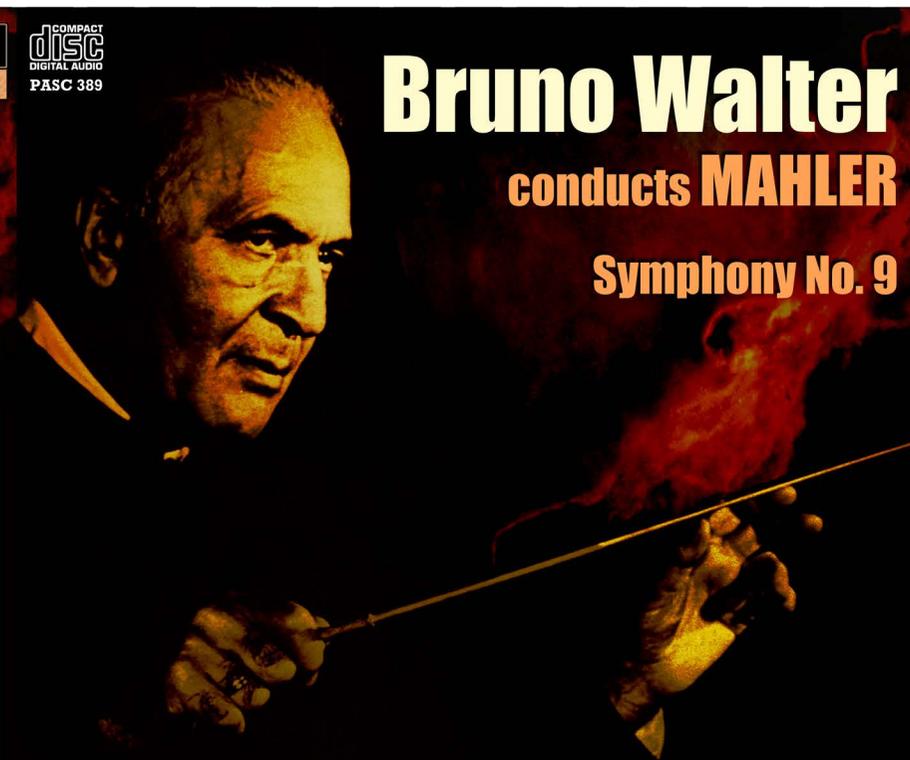
## conducts Mahler's Symphony No. 9



# Bruno Walter

## conducts MAHLER

### Symphony No. 9



"...We discussed our last recording in Vienna, when on Sunday, January 16th, in the old Musikverein Hall, during an actual performance, we recorded the complete 9th Symphony of Mahler. These records (twenty in all) turned out extraordinarily successful, and Bruno Walter recalled that that was the last time, after an association of more than twenty years, that he had waved the baton over that venerable orchestra for gramophone recording. It was the swan song of the old Philharmonic Orchestra (Gustav Mahler's own orchestra) and the performance was worthy of the occasion.

Bruno Walter as a young man was Gustav Mahler's first Kapellmeister at the Vienna Opera from 1901 to 1907 (when Mahler resigned and left Walter co-director with Franz Schalk). Thus he worked at the feet of his master, who studied with him all his compositions and discussed his aims and ambitions. Indeed, the 9th Symphony is dedicated to Walter, who, with the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, gave the first performance of it a year after Mahler's death..."

**Fred Gaisburg, The Gramophone, January 1939 - excerpt, article on Bruno Walter**

Bruno Walter conducted the first performance of Mahler's Ninth Symphony in 1912 (it is dedicated to him) as well as this, its first commercial recording. Although later performances (including Walter's subsequent CBS recording in the early 1960s) have offered more polished orchestral playing and more vivid recording, none brings one closer to its world of feeling or takes one more deeply into its spirit. Its fires are white-hot and there is a blazing intensity that in my experience has never been surpassed on the gramophone. There is a demonic passion to the Rondo Burlesque (the orchestra play as if their corporate life is at stake) and the final Adagio has a poignancy that once heard is not easily forgotten. Even younger readers unencumbered by nostalgia will, I think, recognize the authenticity of feeling here, and I would urge everyone who cares about Mahler to listen to it.

**R.L., Gramophone, August 1989 - excerpt, EMI CD reissue**

#### Transfer notes

Bruno Walter's historic first recording of Mahler's 9th Symphony, which he takes some eleven minutes faster than his 1961 Columbia recording (PASC376) has long been regarded as one of the great artefacts of the history of music recordings. It was remarkably well-made for its day, and here, after extensive XR remastering work, is revealed to have held within the grooves a quality of sound that is quite incredible for any 1930s recording. Despite some occasional upper end distortion, this is a full frequency recording, and it sounds magnificent as a result. A.R.

## Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra

Live recording, 1938



FULL PROGRAMME NOTES CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT [WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM](http://WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM)  
SARL Pristine Audio, 144 Rue de l'Eglise, 24610 St. Méard de Gurçon, France - Tel. (00) 33 553 821857  
[www.pristineclassical.com](http://www.pristineclassical.com)

PRISTINE  
AUDIO

PASC 389

COMPACT  
disc  
DIGITAL AUDIO  
PASC 389

PRISTINE  
AUDIO

MAHLER SYMPHONY No. 9  
WALTER, VIENNA PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

XR remastering by **Andrew Rose**

Cover artwork based on a photograph of  
**Bruno Walter**

**Mahler Symphony No. 9**  
Recording Producer: **Fred Gaisberg**  
Recorded 15-16 January 1938  
Musikvereinssaal, Vienna  
First issued as HMV 78s DB.8569/78  
Matrix Nos. 2VH.7027-46

Total duration: **71:00**

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

© 2013 **Pristine Audio**

MAHLER SYMPHONY No. 9  
WALTER, VIENNA PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

## Mahler Symphony No. 9

- 1 1st mvt. - Andante comodo (25:12)
- 2 2nd mvt. - Im Tempo eines gemächlichen Ländlers.  
Etwas täppisch und sehr derb (15:49)
- 3 3rd mvt. - Rondo-Burleske: Allegro assai. Sehr trotzig (11:29)
- 4 4th mvt. - Adagio. Sehr langsam und noch zurückhaltend (18:30)

**Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra Bruno Walter**

PASC 389

PRISTINE  
AUDIO