



Fricsay conducts Beethoven

Piano Concerto No. 3 & Triple Concerto



Historic Reviews

This is a fine performance of the Concerto, without a doubt. Annie Fischer plays the first movement with a wide range of mood and expression; here she gives us the most beautiful *espressivo*, there she storms the music as it should be stormed (and Fricsay matches her moods as a true partner). After a lovely slow movement, then comes just what is wanted for the finale—pointed, lively playing with an air of gaiety about it; and what charm this pianist gives the main theme when, after its appearances in the minor, it is heard in D flat major.

To this there is a generous bonus in the two Mozart Rondos (which alone seems to me to knock out last month's Philips record, with the concerto spread over all of both sides). The D major has at least one most beautiful episode—and another nearly as good. The A major is a finer piece all through, and is the more worth having since this seems to be the only recording of it. [N.B. *Due to space restrictions the rondos cannot be accommodated on the CD version of this release. They are available as a free download from our website.*] - TH, The Gramophone, 02/61

Here is a magnificently compelling performance of this great work, music that I find I love the more deeply the oftener I hear it. (Until the advent of LP one had no chance to get to know it well, of course.) This latest record is remarkable for the outstanding playing, phrasing and style of the 'cellist, Fournier. Not that the other two fail to make up a well balanced and obviously carefully rehearsed team, but one's ear is constantly drawn to Fournier's wonderfully beautiful playing. Exposed as he is, for most of the time up in his higher reaches, his assurance of intonation is remarkable in itself, but he adds to that so much artistry that I would almost buy the record just to listen to him.

However, the performance of the work as a whole is what I am supposed to be writing about and I must say that I have never heard it better played. The approach is romantic (and to that extent it opportunely takes the place of the deleted version under Walter), as you can tell by the very first bars under Fricsay, especially if you compare them with the more classical approach of Sargent and his equally distinguished team. The slow movement is played with a quiet, rapt atmosphere that makes one think of other great Beethoven slow movements and the depth of feeling they can give—that of the Ninth Symphony, for instance. - TH, The Gramophone, 10/61

Producer's Note

Both of these recordings were essentially very well made, and these new transfers have, with XR remastering, built on very fine originals a clean, clear and full sound that in both cases might have been recorded just last week, rather than more than fifty years ago. One problem did rear its head in the second movement of the piano concerto, where cuts between takes caused considerable jumps in the stereo soundstage's intended centre image. These I have attempted to ameliorate as much as possible, though the careful listener on headphones may still spot the joins. That said, this is unlikely to detract from these wonderful performances and recordings. **A.R.**

FULL PROGRAMME NOTES CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM
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Fricsay conducts Beethoven Concertos

Piano Concerto No. 3

Annie Fischer,
Baravian State Orchestra

Triple Concerto

Géza Anda
Wolfgang Schneiderhan
Pierre Fournier
Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra



PASC 400
STEREO

Studio recordings, 1957 & 1960

FRICSAY *Beethoven Concertos*

BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No. 3 in C minor, Op. 37

- 1 1st mvt. - Allegro con brio (16:18)
- 2 2nd mvt. - Largo (9:42)
- 3 3rd mvt. - Rondo (Allegro) (9:18)

Annie Fischer *piano*

Bavarian State Orchestra

BEETHOVEN Triple Concerto in C major, Op. 56

- 1 1st mvt. - Allegro (18:20)
- 2 2nd mvt. - Largo (attaca) (5:05)
- 3 3rd mvt. - Rondo alla polacca (13:56)

Géza Anda *piano*

Wolfgang Schneiderhan *violin*

Pierre Fournier *cello*

Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra

Ferenc Fricsay *conductor*

XR remastering by Andrew Rose

Cover artwork based on a
photograph of Ferenc Fricsay

Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 3

Recorded 3 December, 1957
Herikulesaal, Munich
Issued as DGG SLP 138087

Beethoven Triple Concerto

Recorded 1 May, 1960
Jesus Christus-Kirche, Berlin
Issued as DGG SLP 138236

Total duration: 72:39

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