

COMPACT
disc
DIGITAL AUDIO
PASC 473

KLEMPERER

In Geneva, 1957

Pristine
XR

The Orchestre de la Suisse Romande (OSR; literal translation, "Orchestra of French-speaking Switzerland") is a Swiss symphony orchestra, based in Geneva at the Victoria Hall. In addition to symphony concerts, the OSR performs as the opera orchestra in productions at the Grand Théâtre de Genève.

Ernest Ansermet founded the OSR in 1918, with a contingent of 48 players and a season of six months' duration. Besides Swiss musicians, the OSR players initially came from other countries, including Austria, France, Germany and Italy. Ansermet gradually increased the percentage of Swiss musicians in the orchestra, attaining 80% Swiss personnel by 1946. Ansermet remained the music director of the OSR for 49 years, from 1918 to 1967.

A Swiss radio orchestra based in Lausanne was merged into the OSR in 1938. Subsequently, the OSR began to broadcast radio concerts regularly on Swiss radio. The orchestra had a long-standing contract for recordings with Decca Records, dating from the tenure of Ansermet, and made over 300 recordings for Decca, starting in 1947 with Debussy's *La mer*. The OSR premiered many works of the Swiss composers Arthur Honegger and Frank Martin. During the directorship of Armin Jordan (1985–1997), the OSR continued to make recordings on the Erato label.

Wikipedia (excerpt)

Producer's Note

This live radio recording, sourced here from a later, high-quality French FM rebroadcast, offers us nearly eighty minutes of Otto Klemperer at the height of his musical powers, some three years after he began his run of extraordinary recordings with the Philharmonia Orchestra for EMI, thanks to the efforts of legendary producer Walter Legge.

Despite becoming the first principal conductor of the Philharmonia in 1959, it was in Switzerland that Klemperer settled at this stage in his life, and this live 1957 radio broadcast is a rare example of him conducting the primary orchestra of his adopted home. Recorded at Victoria Hall, Geneva, the venue for the orchestra's many Decca recordings (and thus, one might expect, well-equipped and well-known to local sound engineers), the sound quality is excellent throughout following XR remastering, which has dealt effectively with a slightly over-forward tonal balance in the original.

Alas our source material included no applause or other material from the original broadcasts, though timings would have been very tight to include any additional content for this release.

Andrew Rose



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KLEMPERER IN GENEVA - BACH, BEETHOVEN, HINDEMITH
KLEMPERER, ORCHESTRE DE LA SUISSE ROMANDE

klemperer

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HINDEMITH *Nobilissima Visione - Konzert-Suite (1938)*

- 1. Einleitung und Rondo: Sehr Langsam (6:25)
- 2. Marsch und Pastorale: Lebhaft (7:56)
- 3. Passacaglia: Feierlich bewegt (5:25)

J. S. BACH *Orchestral Suite in D major, BWV1068*

- 1. Overture (8:52)
- 2. Air (6:09)
- 3. Gavottes I and II (3:33)
- 4. Bourrée (1:25)
- 5. Gigue (3:05)

BEETHOVEN *Symphony No. 7 in A major, Op. 97*

- 1st mvt. - Poco sostenuto – Vivace (12:06)
- 2nd mvt. - Allegretto (9:17)
- 3rd mvt. - Presto (7:47)
- 4th mvt. - Allegro con brío (7:41)

Orchestre de la Suisse Romande
Otto Klemperer, conductor

XR remastering by Andrew Rose

Cover artwork based on a
photograph of Otto Klemperer

Broadcast concert
Victoria Hall, Geneva, Switzerland
6 March 1957

Total duration: 79:41

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