



Busch

conducts Beethoven in the USA



Fritz Busch was not what the public frequently calls a 'recording artist'; the number of his studio recordings is strongly limited, and mostly he worked with recording companies long defunct. The current collection of all of Fritz Busch's Beethoven recordings made in the United States of America contains but one studio recording, which was not published during Busch's lifetime – the Violin Concerto recorded at the New York Liederkranz Hall one day after the two public concerts at the Carnegie Hall the previous days. Adolf Busch, the conductor's brother and soloist of all three performances, disallowed a release due to the problematic balance between soloist and orchestra (and although his problem could not be bettered the overall result has been improved by Andrew Rose), which has however been frequently circulated since – in contrast to the live performance, which was released for the first time only in 2006, by Music & Arts. The Beethoven Concerto is one of the few occasions when we can hear the brothers performing together.

Busch had already been performing in New York from 1927; his last New York concert is here represented by a performance of the Fifth Symphony, which in the last movement is marred by some loss of several bars, which have here for the first time been re-inserted from another New York performance, from February 1950, under Bruno Walter. Busch's only surviving Beethoven recording from the West coast is the Overture to Egmont, performed in three subscription concerts in Los Angeles in 1946, part of which was broadcast in the Standard Oil Radio Hour programme. (The complete New York and Los Angeles concerts recordings have been published by Guild Historical.)

Busch had bought a small house in Riverdale, New York, early in 1948, when he frequently conducted the New York Philharmonic-Symphony Orchestra and was music director of the Metropolitan Opera. While he appeared in several North American metropolises such as Philadelphia, Baltimore, Cleveland or Boston only with the Metropolitan touring company, he was several times a guest conductor of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, in 1947 to 1950. The 1949 broadcast performance of Beethoven's First Symphony, following a concert performance the previous evening and hitherto misdated in any publications, has suffered only limited circulation, here finding its proper place in Fritz Busch's discography for the first time.

The bonus file in this collection is one of a total of nine surviving 78s sides recorded by Busch and the Orchester des Württembergischen Landes-Theaters probably in mid-1919. Busch had attained the position as music director in Stuttgart in 1918, as successor of Max von Schillings. The music recorded was largely by Mozart (five sides), Reger (three sides, extracts from the Mozart Variations), and the Beethoven scherzo. Another recording of the Beethoven (now the complete 'Eroica') was only to take place in 1950, when Busch went into the Remington recording studio in Vienna for some Beethoven, Haydn, and Brahms (for the Brahms cf. PASC570).

Jürgen Schaarwächter

BuschBrothersArchive in the Max-Reger-Institut, Karlsruhe

PASC 618



busch
beethoven in the usa

symphony no. 1
symphony no. 5
violin concerto
egmont overture

adolf busch, violin
philharmonic-symphony
orchestra of new york
chicago symphony orchestra
los angeles philharmonic orchestra
conducted by fritz busch



live & studio recordings, 1919-1950

busch

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disc one

1. BEETHOVEN Egmont Overture, Op. 84 (9:02)

Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra

Live concert performance, Alhambra High School Auditorium, Los Angeles, 10 March 1946

BEETHOVEN Violin Concerto in D major, Op. 61 (live)

2. 1st mvt. - Allegro ma non troppo (21:53)

3. 2nd mvt. - Larghetto (9:35)

4. 3rd mvt. - Rondo. Allegro (9:22)

Adolf Busch violin

Philharmonic-Symphony Orchestra of New York

Live concert performance, Carnegie Hall, New York, 8 February 1942

BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 1 in C major, Op. 21

5. 1st mvt. - Adagio molto - Allegro con brio (8:28)

6. 2nd mvt. - Andante cantabile con moto (6:46)

7. 3rd mvt. - Minuet. Allegro molto e vivace - Trio (3:10)

8. 4th mvt. - Finale. Adagio - Allegro molto e vivace (5:40)

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Radio broadcast performance, Orchestra Hall, Chicago, 23 March 1949

Conducted by Fritz Busch

XR Remastered by **Andrew Rose**

Cover artwork based on a photograph of Fritz Busch taken in 1950

Special thanks to Dr. **Jürgen Schaarwächter**

Produced in co-operation with the **Max-Reger-Institut/BuschBrothersArchive**, Karlsruhe, Germany

Total duration: **2hr 28:56**

CD1: 73:56 CD2: 75:00

disc two

BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 5 in C minor, Op. 67

1. 1st mvt. - Allegro con brio (7:27)

2. 2nd mvt. - Andante con moto (9:17)

3. 3rd mvt. - Scherzo. Allegro - Trio (4:58)

4. 4th mvt. - Allegro (8:29)

Philharmonic-Symphony Orchestra of New York

Live concert performance, Metropolitan Opera House, New York, 10 December 1950

[Missing section from a 13 February 1950 NYPSO recording conducted by Bruno Walter]

BEETHOVEN Violin Concerto in D major, Op. 61 (studio)

5. 1st mvt. - Allegro ma non troppo (22:05)

6. 2nd mvt. - Larghetto (9:30)

7. 3rd mvt. - Rondo. Allegro (9:36)

Adolf Busch violin

Philharmonic-Symphony Orchestra of New York

Studio recording unapproved by Adolf Busch, Liederkranz Hall, New York, 9 February 1942

Bonus recording:

BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 3 in E-flat major, Op. 55 'Eroica'

8. 3rd mvt. - Scherzo. Allegro vivace (3:39)

Orchester des Württembergischen Landes-Theaters

Studio recording, Stuttgart c1919

