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FURTWÄNGLER: Volume 2

NAXOS Historical



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## BEETHOVEN • WAGNER FURTWÄNGLER

Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra  
Wilhelm Furtwängler (1886-1954)

ADD

Playing  
Time  
68:08

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

31:45

- 1 Allegro con brio 7:38
- 2 Andante con moto 10:12
- 3 Allegro 5:48
- 4 Allegro 8:08

Recorded October and November 1937

**FURTWÄNGLER:**

- 5 **Symphonic Concerto: Adagio solemne** 11:02

Recorded April 1939

Edwin Fischer, Piano

**WAGNER:**

- 6 **Parsifal: Prelude to Act 1** 14:09

Recorded March 1938

- 7 **Parsifal: Good Friday Spell (Act 3)** 10:41

Recorded March 1938

For Furtwängler the music of Beethoven, the symphonies in general and the Fifth and Ninth in particular were almost evangelical missions. There are at least eleven performances of the Fifth documented in live, broadcast or commercial recordings. This 1937 recording was his second with the Berlin Philharmonic and is admired as much for sound quality as interpretative prowess. Although, in many respects, *Parsifal* most suited the great conductor's temperament, it is the most under-represented of all Wagner's mature music dramas in the Furtwängler discography. The *Adagio solemne* from Furtwängler's own epic *Symphonic Concerto for piano and orchestra*, completed in 1943, is built upon the bedrock of Brahmsian and Brucknerian experience rather than swimming with contemporary atonal or neo-classical developments.

Producer and Audio Restoration Engineer: Mark Obert-Thorn  
Special thanks to Donald R. Hodgman, Nathan Brown, Charles Niss and Don Tait for providing source material from the Cortland Herr collection for this release

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A complete track list can be found in the booklet  
Cover Image: Wilhelm Furtwängler 1930s (Lebrecht Music & Arts)



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