

Playing
Time
2:33:41

Johann Sebastian
BACH
(1685-1750)

Mass in B Minor BWV 232

8.111053-54

ADD



IC 05537

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Elisabeth Schwarzkopf soprano
Marga Höffgen mezzo-soprano
Nicolai Gedda tenor
Heinz Rehfuss bass
Choral Society of the Friends of Music, Vienna
Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra • Philharmonia Orchestra
Herbert von Karajan

Recorded 2nd-5th and 7th November, 1952 in Vienna
and 23rd, 28th and 30th November, 1952
and 16th July, 1953 in London

This legendary recording of Bach's *B minor Mass* was made, most unusually, in two places and with two orchestras. The Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra was booked, anonymously, to record the choruses with the Choral Society of the Friends of Music, Vienna, while the reduced forces of the Philharmonia, with the section principals for instrumental solo parts, accompanied the solos and duets in London. Critical comment on this recording when it first appeared in 1954 was virtually unanimous. *The Record Guide* (Collins, 1955) remarked "The principal qualities of Karajan's reading are lightness, absolute clarity of sound and rhythmic buoyancy, all of them qualities that many performances miss ... Karajan, and [the] engineers, allow us to hear all the vocal and instrumental parts. Choral and solo singing are delightful".

CD 1	76:15	CD 2	77:26
1-3 I Kyrie	21:25	1-5 III Credo (concluded)	20:49
4-11 II Gloria	40:32	6-9 IV Sanctus	17:36
12-16 III Credo	14:17	10-11 V Agnus Dei	11:08
		12-16 Appendix: Historical Recordings of Bach's Mass in B Minor	27:51

Reissue Producer and Restoration Engineer: Mark Obert-Thorn
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