

ADD

 Playing
Time
68:08

BEETHOVEN • WAGNER
FURTWÄNGLER

 Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra
Wilhelm Furtwängler (1886-1954)
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 solenne** 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 solenne* 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
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 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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