

Johannes Brahms
 (1833-1897)

 Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra
Wilhelm Furtwängler (1886-1954)
Playing Time
66:47

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BRAHMS:**Symphony No. 1 in C minor, Op. 68**

1	Un poco sostenuto - Allegro	47:04
2	Andante sostenuto	14:48
3	Un poco allegretto e grazioso	10:39
4	Adagio - Più andante	5:06
		16:32

Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra

Recorded at the Großer Saal, Musikverein, Vienna, 17th-20th November 1947

**Variations on a Theme by J. Haydn, Op 56a
'St. Antoni Chorale'**

5	Theme, 'St. Antoni Chorale': Andante	19:43
6	Variation I: Poco più animato	2:15
7	Variation II: Più vivace	1:17
8	Variation III: Con moto	1:01
9	Variation IV: Andante con moto	2:07
10	Variation V: Vivace	2:45
11	Variation VI: Vivace	0:54
12	Variation VII: Grazioso	1:23
13	Variation VIII: Presto non troppo	3:12
14	Finale: Andante	0:58
		3:50

Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra

Recorded at the Großer Saal, Musikverein, Vienna, 30th March & 2nd April 1949

Listening to Furtwängler's performances from the post-war period is to participate in some of the most intense realisations of the repertoire he held most dear, including that of Brahms with whom he shared a consuming interest in the roots of their German musical heritage. Both in his writing and interpretative stance, Furtwängler sought to attain the heart of Brahms's idiom through the imagery of its connections with nature. The introduction to the Finale of the *First Symphony* is an obvious case in point. Having wound down the tempo of the preceding movement using the tonal possibilities of Brahms's instrumentation to reflect a decidedly autumnal sunset, Furtwängler allows the music to emerge as though from darkest night with the Finale's horn-call resounding with all the warmth and reassurance of a shaft of morning sun breaking through the mists.

Producer and Audio Restoration Engineer: Ward Marston

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 Cover Photograph: Wilhelm Furtwängler in Florence, May 1954
 (Private collection)


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