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ADD

Ludwig van
BEETHOVEN
(1770-1827)

Playing
Time
74:19

Symphony No. 9, Op. 125 'Choral'

Elisabeth Schwarzkopf soprano
Elisabeth Höngen mezzo-soprano
Hans Hopf tenor
Otto Edelmann bass

Bayreuth Festival Chorus and Orchestra
Wilhelm Furtwängler

Recorded during the performance of 29th July, 1951
at the Festspielhaus, Bayreuth

1	I Allegro ma non troppo, un poco maestoso	17:45
2	II Molto vivace	11:55
3	III Adagio molto e cantabile	19:33
4-11	IV Presto	25:02

The re-opening of the Bayreuth Festival in 1951 represented a major step forward in the international rehabilitation of Germany following the end of the Second World War. As the leading conductor of his generation, Wilhelm Furtwängler was the obvious choice to conduct the opening performance of the Festival, traditionally devoted to a single work, Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9*, the 'Choral'. This work had a deep spiritual significance for Furtwängler: he only agreed to conduct it on special occasions, and never made a studio recording of it. First released in 1955, after his death, the recording of this 1951 performance represents one of the most profound realisations of Beethoven's masterpiece ever to have been committed to disc.

Reissue Producer and Audio Restoration Engineer: Mark Obert-Thorn
Cover photo: Wilhelm Furtwängler at La Scala, Milan, 1950 (Private Collection)

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