



8.111262

ADD

**L. van Beethoven**  
(1770-1827)

**J. Brahms**  
(1833-1897)

**Playing  
Time  
77:08**

**Pablo Casals Orchestra of Barcelona • London Symphony Orchestra**  
**Pablo Casals (1876-1973)**

**BEETHOVEN:****Symphony No. 1 in C major, Op. 21****23:59**

1  
2  
3  
4

Adagio molto – Allegro con brio

8:14

Andante cantabile con moto

8:19

Menuetto: Allegro molto e vivace

3:08

Adagio – Allegro molto e vivace

4:19

**Pablo Casals Orchestra of Barcelona**

Recorded 3rd, 6th and 8th July, 1929 in the Olympia Theatre, Barcelona

**Symphony No. 4 in B flat major, Op. 60****29:02**

5  
6  
7  
8

Adagio – Allegro vivace

8:48

Adagio

8:48

Menuetto: Allegro vivace

4:32

Allegro ma non troppo

6:54

**Pablo Casals Orchestra of Barcelona**

Recorded 4th-5th July, 1929 in the Olympia Theatre, Barcelona

9

**The Ruins of Athens, Op. 113 – Overture****4:29****Pablo Casals Orchestra of Barcelona**

Recorded 8th July, 1929 in the Olympia Theatre, Barcelona

**BRAHMS:**

10-19

**Variations on a Theme by J. Haydn, Op 56a****19:38****'St. Antoni Chorale'****London Symphony Orchestra**

Recorded 6th December, 1927 in Queen's Hall, London

Along with Casals' 1927 London Symphony disc of Beethoven's *Coriolan* Overture (Naxos Historical 8.110976), these recordings – the Beethoven *Symphony No. 1* is particularly rare – constitute the cellist's complete pre-war recordings as a conductor. The Barcelona sessions made with Casals' own orchestra, formed in 1919, were set down in a concentrated period of work over five days in early July 1929. They are notable for their unfussy and direct approach to Beethoven that reveal the music in honest, unvarnished and expressive terms. In Brahms' *Variations on the St. Anthony Chorale*, recorded just a few weeks before Casals' 51st birthday, the London Symphony Orchestra plays with beauty of sound, excellent ensemble and characterful wind solos. Casals' temperate direction stresses the lyrical and eloquent aspects of Brahms' writing.

**Producer and Audio Restoration Engineer: Mark Obert-Thorn****www.naxos.com**

**Cover Photograph: Pablo Casals in Barcelona, ca. 1930**  
**(Private collection)**



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