

**Boston Symphony Orchestra
Serge Koussevitzky (1874-1951)**

**Richard WAGNER (1813-1883):
Der fliegende Holländer (The Flying Dutchman)**

[1] Overture
Recorded 4th April 1947 10:17

Lohengrin

[2] Act I: Prelude
Recorded 27th April 1949 9:09

Parsifal

[3] Act I: Prelude
Recorded 4th April 1947 14:58
[4] Act III: Good Friday Spell
Recorded 19th April 1946 11:46

[5] Siegfried Idyll
Recorded 27th April 1949 18:01

Johannes BRAHMS (1833-1897):

[6] Academic Festival Overture, Op. 80
Recorded 2nd April 1947 9:58

Boston Symphony Orchestra • Serge Koussevitzky

All tracks recorded in the Symphony Hall, Boston, USA

Serge Koussevitzky's tenure of the Boston Symphony lasted from 1924 to 1949, a notable time during the orchestra's history, owing to adventurous programming and wide-ranging commissions. The recordings on this release, made between 1946 and 1949, are representative of Koussevitzky's final years with the orchestra and, although the conductor was in his early to mid-seventies, lack nothing for energy. The opening of the *Overture* to *The Flying Dutchman* inspires a typically dramatic and intense performance. Intimacy abounds in *Siegfried Idyll*, a lyrically shaped account with a gentle degree of forward thrust, beguiling strings and characterful woodwind solos. Brahms's *Academic Festival Overture* is given a lusty outing but not without light and shade, proof yet again that Koussevitzky's conducting rarely if ever was without a sense of theatre and effective point-making.

Producer and Audio Restoration Engineer: Mark Obert-Thorn

Special thanks to Don Tait for providing source material

www.naxos.com

**Cover Photograph: Serge Koussevitzky (late 1940s)
(Private collection)**



7 47313 32832 1

05537

