

Playing
Time
71:27

Ludwig van
BEETHOVEN
(1770-1827)

Symphonies Nos. 1 and 3 'Eroica'

Symphony No. 1 in C major, Op. 21

23:05

- 1** I Adagio molto – Allegro con brio 7:28
- 2** II Andante cantabile con moto 6:12
- 3** III Menuetto – Allegro molto e vivace 3:44
- 4** IV Adagio – Allegro molto 5:41

Recorded on 21st November 1953

Symphony No. 3 in E flat major, Op. 55, 'Eroica'

48:22

- 5** I Allegro con brio 14:30
- 6** II Marcia funebre: Adagio assai 16:19
- 7** III Scherzo: Allegro vivace 5:45
- 8** IV Finale: Allegro molto 11:48

Recorded on 1st December 1952

Philharmonia Orchestra • Herbert von Karajan

All tracks recorded in Kingsway Hall, London

Herbert von Karajan established himself as one of the 20th century's greatest conductors, both in live performances and on recordings. Taken from the first of Karajan's four Beethoven symphony cycles, made in the splendid acoustics of London's Kingsway Hall, these are beautifully polished readings that traverse the decades with ease. The Karajan trademarks of 'perfection of balance and blend' can be heard, for example, in the beautifully pointed woodwind chording and weight of the pizzicatos at the opening of *Symphony No. 1*. No less telling is the opening of *Symphony No. 3*, which begins at a scorching pace, accents strong yet considered, followed by a broadly-based account of the *Marcia funebre* second movement which, while retaining Karajan's exacting approach, does not smooth out dissonance.

Reissue Producer and Audio Restoration Engineer: Mark Obert-Thorn
Cover photo: Herbert von Karajan (Private Collection)

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