

MOZART: *Symphonies 34+41;*
Idomeneo Overture

Symphony Nova Scotia/ Georg Tintner
Naxos 557239—76 minutes

This is Volume 7 of the Naxos Tintner Memorial Edition. His performances of these works are generally steady, well-organized, and clearly drawn, with moderate tempos and a good feeling for tempo relationships. They are all concert performances, and the recorded sound though clear and fairly well balanced isn't as detailed and precisely focussed as it could be. Also, Tintner insists on playing practically every repeat in the *Jupiter*, stretching it out to a duration of 40:16—longer, for example, than the Beethoven Seventh! This practice massages the material until it's practically worn out, and even Mozart's music is getting tiresome by the time it's over. It's really hard to imagine that Mozart intended the *Jupiter* to be this long. Tintner also plays a usually omitted repeat in III of Symphony 34—unnecessary but less of a problem.

The Nova Scotia players are enthusiastic, but their string ensemble is not in the class of the best US and European orchestras. Violin trills, for example, are not articulated precisely; the players are not quite together and their trills sound opaque and listless. The conductor contributes two fairly short lectures about the music, delivered in his strongly accented English. They will be of little interest to most listeners, and their information could have been relegated to the program notes. This will probably be of interest mostly to admirers of the conductor.