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ADD

Felix Mendelssohn • Johannes Brahms
Richard Wagner

Vienna Philharmonic • Lucerne Festival Orchestra
Wilhelm Furtwängler (1886-1954)

Playing
Time
74:45

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MENDELSSOHN:

1 The Hebrides 'Fingal's Cave' – Overture, Op. 26 10:02

Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra

Recorded at the Brahmsaal, Musikverein, Vienna, 15th February 1949

BRAHMS: Hungarian Dances, WoO1

2 No. 1 in G minor 7:31

3 No. 2 in D minor 3:07

4 No. 3 in F major 2:34

Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra 1:50

Recorded at the Großer Saal, Musikverein, Vienna, 4th April 1949

BRAHMS: Violin Concerto in D major, Op. 77

5 I Allegro ma non troppo 40:12

6 II Adagio 22:07

7 III Allegro giocoso, ma non troppo vivace 9:56

Yehudi Menuhin, violin 8:09

Lucerne Festival Orchestra

Recorded at the Kunsthau, Lucerne, 29th-31st August 1949

WAGNER:

8 Siegfried Idyll 17:00

Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra

Recorded at the Brahmsaal, Musikverein, Vienna, 16th-17th February 1949

Although Furtwängler's recorded legacy is extensive, recordings of concertos are relatively few. This 1949 recording of Brahms' *Violin Concerto* is notable for the legendary conductor's highly expressive accompaniment. In the *Hungarian Dances* Furtwängler's innate understanding of their idiom brings a variety of subtleties and inflexions that make this recording particularly memorable. In Mendelssohn's *Hebrides Overture* his structural strength of line, together with a natural fluidity of tempo underpinning the thematic imagery, strikes a perfect balance. Last but not least, the heart-warming performance of Wagner's *Siegfried Idyll* demonstrates once again that even when Furtwängler conducted the lighter works of those composers whose output could be considered predominantly serious, he always brought the same questing spirit to search out the soul of the music.



Producer and Audio Restoration Engineer: Ward Marston

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Cover Photograph: Wilhelm Furtwängler at La Scala, 1952
(Private collection)

