



Richard Strauss: Don Juan, Eine Alpensinfonie & Walzerfolge from Der Rosenkavalier

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RECORD REVIEW:
Audite continues its survey of Karl Böhm's RIAS Berlin recordings from the early 1950s with a Strauss disc which includes Don Juan, the Alpine Symphony and a sequence of waltzes from Rosenkavalier. The sound of the 1954 Don Juan is very good indeed – Audite has used the original broadcast tapes – and the performance has an irresistible sense of forward momentum as well as the lucidity and clarity that characterizes Böhm's Strauss. The RIAS SO plays wonderfully, as it does throughout the disc. The Alpine Symphony sounds very good too, even though it dates from two years earlier. Böhm's conducting has a seemingly effortless long-term control over this grandest of Strauss's orchestral epics; in places here he also seems a slightly more swashbuckling mountaineer than in his Dresden recording from 1957. This fine disc ends with a lovely set of waltzes from Rosenkavalier. Notes are excellent and I, for one, can't wait for more in this series.