



Václav Neumann conducts Dvořák & Smetana

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From the archives

Andrew McGregor looks over this month's reissued and live archive recordings

December round-up Václav Neumann was chief conductor of the Czech Phil for 22 years, and in 1969 this was the first orchestra from behind the Iron Curtain to visit the Lucerne Festival. Neumann brought them back in zhe 1980s, and these Swiss Radio recordings are released for the first time. In Dvorák's Eights Symphony in 1988, Neumann is direct and unfussy, coaxing a lovely string sound, while the Czech Phil's characterful winds are wonderful, the horn sound warmed with vibrato. From their 1984 visit, the darkness of Dvorák's The Wild Dove is fully realized, and the Prelude to Smetana's Libuse glows with national pride.



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