



Edition Wilhelm Furtwängler – The complete RIAS recordings

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www.amazon.com (D. Altschuler - 12.07.2009)

amazon By far the best transfers on these items

I've been a WF collector for 30 years. This is the Furtwängler bargain of the decade. Get ready to give away your M&A issues to distant acquaintances, because Audite's sound ranges from noticeably to dramatically better than all previous releases. The presentation is classy, with an extensive, interesting essay in English and German. Complaints are three; all minor: First, the labels of the CDs only say "CD 1", "CD 2", etc. It would be nice not to always rely on the booklet to know what is on each CD, especially with a large collection like this. Second (this is desperately picky, so you can tell how much I like this set) the photo is of a young Furtwängler, but all these recordings are from late in his career. Third and last, some selections have too much applause (up to 2 minutes) even when it could easily have been cut out altogether. Many of the performances are not available elsewhere. Even the 1947 Menuhin Beethoven concerto is from the day before the M&A release. I gave this 4 stars because, let's face it, WF could be less than reliable (part of his charm, up to a point). As a WF collector purchase it's 5 stars. Hurwitz at [...] gave this (I think) a 7/5. Seven out of ten for artistic merit is reasonable, but given that this a historical issue, the sound quality is better than his mediocre rating. It's remarkable that so much effort was put into these old recordings. Enjoy.

Remember to thank Audite in tonight's evening prayers; it's the only thing to do besides purchase the set.