



Press Info:

Ludwig van Beethoven:




Piano Sonatas

- No. 15 in D major, Op. 28 (Pastoral)
- No. 18 in E-flat major, Op. 31,3
- No. 21 in C major, Op. 53 („Waldstein“)
- No. 30 in E major, Op. 109

Wilhelm Backhaus

live in Berlin, 1969

Even as a young man Wilhelm Backhaus was the epitome of a pianist who focused on performing a work as objectively as possible. With this aim, he proved a strong influence on the succeeding generation of pianists and constituted the opposite pole to Wilhelm Kempff's playing. Backhaus' domain was the classic-romantic repertoire from Bach to Brahms with Beethoven at the centre. During his long career on the concert platform, which lasted for over seventy years, Backhaus intensively explored the piano sonatas of Beethoven with remarkable technical reliability and a profound mastery of musical substance. This live recording of a concert – featuring four major sonatas, including the Waldstein Sonata, Op. 53, and the Sonata in E major, op. 109 – given in Berlin during the last year of Backhaus' life (1969), once more demonstrates the merits of Backhaus' clear and, in the most positive sense of the word, classicist interpretational approach: like almost no other pianist, he knew how to illustrate the content and architecture of this music without sacrificing the detail – but also without losing himself within it.

You can find a “Producer's Comment”  from producer Ludger Böckenhoff about this CD on our home page: www.audite.de/en/download/file/286/pdf.html.

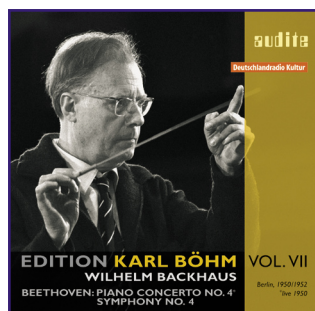


The production is part of our series „Legendary Recordings“ and bears the quality feature „1st Master Release“. This term stands for the excellent quality of archival productions at audite. For all historical publications at audite are based, without exception, on the original tapes from broadcasting archives. In general these are the original analogue tapes, which attain an astonishingly high quality, even measured by today's standards, with their tape speed of up to 76 cm/sec. The remastering – professionally competent and sensitively applied – also uncovers previously hidden details of the interpretations. Thus, a sound of superior quality results. CD publications based on private recordings from broadcasts or old shellac records cannot be compared with these.

ordering number: audite 23.420 (2CDs / Digipac)
EAN: 4022143234209
internet: <http://www.audite.de/sc.php?cd=23420>



A previous **Wilhelm Backhaus** release already issued at audite:



Ludwig van Beethoven:
Piano Concerto No. 4
Symphony No. 4



*Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin
Karl Böhm / Wilhelm Backhaus, piano*

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