



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

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Though none of these are among Karl Böhm's greatest performances of orchestral works by Richard Strauss, they are still superlative performances that easily out-distance most later recordings, despite their antique sound. Recorded in 1952 and 1954, the sound is quite fine for its time, with enough detail and plenty of presence. The performances themselves are all magnificent. Conducting the RIAS-Symphonie-Orchester, Böhm leads a bold and dashing Don Juan with a death scene of astonishing impact, a massive and mighty Eine Alpensinfonie with an Epilogue of tremendous beauty, and a Suite of Waltzes from Act III of Der Rosenkavalier of wonderful suppleness and sensuality. Böhm's 1957 recordings of Don Juan and Eine Alpensinfonie with the Staatskapelle Dresden are more fully realized and certainly better sounding than these, but this disc should interest any true believer in either Böhm or Strauss.