



Ferenc Fricsay conducts Béla Bartók – The early RIAS recordings

aud 21.407

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The deservedly honoured Hungarian conductor Ferenc Fricsay (1914-1973) led the RIAS Symphony Orchestra from its inception in 1949 until 1963. In 1950 he signed an exclusive contract with DG and although he made a few recordings with the Berlin and Vienna Philharmonics, it is with the RIAS that his recorded legacy rests. At the Franz Liszt Academy in Budapest he had studied with Bartók, Kodaly and Dohnanyi all of whom he acknowledged as having the greatest influence in his interpretation of his county's music and, of course, on the entire repertoire, orchestral music, concerti, and certainly opera. Audite has released a three CD set containing the complete RIAS recordings of Bartok performances from 1951 through 1953 (Audite 21.407, 3 mono CDs). There are no duplications of any performances that have been issued by DG. Included are concerto performances with his landsmen violinist Tibor Varga and pianists Géza Anda, Louis Kentner and Andor Foldes, each of whom were his first choices... they shared the same musical language. The three well-filled CDs contain the Violin Concerto No. 2; Piano Concertos 2 & 3 and Rhapsody for Piano and Orchestra; Two Portraits, op. 5; Cantata Profana (Fischer-Dieskau, RIAS Kammerchor & St. Hedwig's Cathedral Choir); Music for Strings, Percussion and Celesta; Dance Suite BB86; and the Divertimento for String Orchestra. It would be no exaggeration to state that these are all definitive performances, played with complete understanding and verve, heard in excellent sound from the archives of Deutschlandradio who licenced them to Audite.