



## Edition Wilhelm Furtwängler – The complete RIAS recordings

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Audite's 12-CD set offers the complete series of available RIAS recordings made from 1947 to 1954 with Wilhelm Furtwängler and the Berlin Philharmonic. Part of the label's Legendary Recordings series, the original analogue tapes were used and these performances, a majority of which have been released many times in the past, sound better than on previous releases. We have two recordings each of Beethoven symphonies 3, 5 and 6, Brahms 3, and Schubert 8. Of particular interest is the concerto for violin and large chamber orchestra by Wolfgang Fortner (1907-1987) played by Gerhard Taschner who at the time was concertmaster of the BPO—a recording never before issued. In this set we have the distinguished conductor at his best and worst. His beat (or lack of same) was a problem for most orchestras including those he worked with most often. Some of the playing is sloppy, some just plain wrong (the Handel and Bach). But when things worked they did so magnificently. There is a "bonus" CD of dubious value recorded February 27, 1951 called "Colloquium in the 'Hochschule für Musik,' Berlin," with Werner Egk and his students interviewing "W. Furtwängler" in German. It is unfortunate Audite doesn't provide a translation of this. However, for Furtwängler admirers, this set is essential, particularly at its budget price.