



## G. Mahler: Symphony No. 9

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Audite continues to mine the vaults for its ongoing Rafael Kubelik/Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra Mahler cycle, culled from live, archival performances. They've unearthed a highly distinctive Ninth, recorded on 4 June 1975 in Tokyo, a reading that provides an interesting comparison with the conductor and orchestra's 1967 studio version for DG. The conductor's care for orchestral balance and horizontal clarity continues to pay dividends in the first movement's complex scoring, where the solo instrument passages never have to struggle to be heard. At the same time, the movement's valedictory climax is more desolate and grand than on the DG recording. The inner movements benefit from harder-hitting accents and more pronounced tempo contrasts, which add dramatic heft. Kubelik again shapes the Finale into aching and fluent paragraphs, while paying heed to Mahler's carefully deployed dynamic gradations. It's quite different from the desolate, slow-motion catharsis provided by Bernstein's recording with the Concertgebouw on DG, or James Levine's rapturous Philadelphia Orchestra traversal. The NHK Radio engineering replicates the orchestral image one might experience from a choice concert hall seat. As was his wont, Kubelik (like Klemperer) divides his violins rather than placing the first and second sections together. In short, this is one of the finest single-disc editions of this harrowing symphony available on disc.