



## G. Mahler: Symphony No. 8

aud 95.551

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[www.SA-CD.net](http://www.SA-CD.net) (Mark Wagner - 2005.08.06)

Hmmmm.....

First, I will say that I have never heard a recording or performance taken at such a break neck speed....in fact, there are places in the first movement where the poor brass cannot keep up. I do not understand what the rush is, unless the engineer told Kubelik to keep it moving. As a veteran of the Telarc Mahler 8 recording with Robert Shaw and Atlanta (I was in one of the choirs from Ohio State), I cannot quite come to grips with the rapid pace. Also, the pace is way faster than my reference Mahler 8 with Solti/Chicago...and everyone always says that Solti took everything at light speed: even Solti at his fastest does not even come this close!!!!

Other than that, the sound is pretty nice overall, with the soloists spread nicely across the soundstage. The boy's choir sounds fine and easy to identify, as opposed to other recordings of the 8th that I have heard. Also, the choirs are well represented, and actually a bit better than the other SACD of Mahler's 8th (listed below).

Brass playing is decent, though not up to what I heard in Atlanta nor on my Solti redbook or the RCA SACD with Colin Davis (RCA 82876 62834-2 also a live recording) which interestingly enough also features the Bayerischen Rundfunk Orchestra!!!!

Despite the brisk tempo, it is certainly an exciting performance!!!

Not the end all SACD of Mahler's 8th, but if you are a fanatical Mahlerite, then this is a good buy and worth checking out!!!!