



G. Mahler: Symphony No. 1

aud 95.467

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The Czech conductor Rafael Kubelik's years as director of the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra in the 1960s and 1970s were among the happiest in a career often beset with adverse criticism – in Chicago (1950-53), where he was targeted relentlessly by one of the local scribes, and even at Covent Garden (1955-58), where music directors, Solti not excluded, may begin by coming in for heavy flak. His music-making at its best had a lovely freshness and humanity, as we hear in this live 1979 Mahler 1. Kubelik inspires his Bavarian musicians to playing of great warmth and vitality. Unfortunately, the recording is apt to sound congested, with uneven balance, although the tuba is nicely prominent in the first movement's development section and the harp clear throughout.