



F. Schubert: Symphony No. 8, D 944 & No. 3, D 200

aud 92.542

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www.SA-CD.net (Bernd Zoellner - 2004.11.23)

A fine, glowing performance of Schubert's C major Symphony ("the Great") and the lesser known Third Symphony. This is a stereo SACD which presents the recordings in two different versions - original and remastered. This means you can hear what is on the original tape without or with subsequent technical improvements. The differences appear to be not too striking, however (I have checked only the first movement of the "Great" so far).

Kubelik is ideal for this kind of repertoire, for he allows the music to breathe and brings out all the details of the score. Even so his approach is more vigorous and impassioned than I had expected. The sound is quite impressive given the age of these recordings (which date from the late 60s and 70s, respectively). The strings are smooth, there is much bloom on the woodwind, and the brass instruments (especially the trombones) also come into their own.

Kubelik recorded extensively with the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, which he led for many years. There are many gems waiting to be released on SACD, e.g. Smetana's "Ma vlast" cycle, Bruckner's Romantic Symphony or Dvorak's Slavonic Dances.