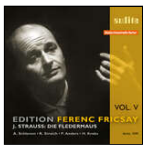
Anneliese Müller



Edition Ferenc Fricsay (V) – J. Strauss: Die Fledermaus

Johann Strauss

2CD aud 23.411

Universitas September 2008, Nummer 747 (Adelbert Reif - 2008.09.04)

Der Dirigent Ferenc Fricsay ist heute eine Legende. Im europäischen...

Full review text restrained for copyright reasons.

Neue Zürcher Zeitung am Sonntag 03. August 2008 (Franz Cavigelli - 2008.08.03)

Fricsay im Land der Operette

Fricsay im Land der Operette

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Concerti – Das Hamburger Musikleben September 2008 (- 2008.09.01)

Fledermaus mit Peter Anders

Fledermaus mit Peter Anders

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www.classicstodayfrance.com Octobre 2008 (Christophe Huss - 2008.10.01)

Audite édite avec un soin optimal la Chauve-souris de 1949 enregistrée à la...

Full review text restrained for copyright reasons.

www.musicweb-international.com December 2008 (Göran Forsling - 2008.12.17)

Splendid singing, outstanding conducting and lively action ...

Hard on the heels of the old Decca recording under Clemens Krauss appeared this even older version from German Radio. Recorded in 1949 the sound is quite stunning. The clarity makes every detail fully audible and there is a sheen on the strings that leaves the Decca far behind. It is mono of course but of such remarkable quality that I rarely miss the stereo definition. There is a fair amount of distortion, mainly in duets and ensembles, which is irritating but possible to live with. Contrary to the Krauss issue there is dialogue included and it is delivered with theatrical flair and in high spirits. With no texts enclosed one needs to be fluent in German, but those who are not will almost certainly appreciate the atmosphere and the tangible enjoyment from the artists.

Hungarian Ferenc Fricsay was an excellent advocate of Johann Strauss's music – documented on DG recordings – and his conducting is no less idiomatic than Clemens Krauss's. Even a real sourpuss must be cheered up by the playing of the overture and when the imaginary curtain rises the plucked strings and harp, preceding Alfred's serenading, will almost certainly produce shivers down the spine. And it is the conducting and the playing that time and again will make the listener sit up and prick up the ears. The Waltz of Waltzes, An der schönen blauen Donau, is played as ballet insert near the end of act II and this reading can be compared with the greatest of the many versions that have amassed in my collection.

A Fledermaus without good singers is, however, just a half Fledermaus and the Berlin based cast Fricsay had gathered can compare favourably with any of the commercial sets. Two of the singers here were to appear half a decade later on Karajan's Columbia recording (see review); Helmut Krebs as a clear-voiced and honeyed Alfred and the young Rita Streich as a delicious Adele. As Gabriel Eisenstein we hear Peter Anders, whose 100th anniversary is celebrated this year. He was sadly killed in a car accident in 1954, aged only 46, and this recording is as good an example as any of his capacity. He is a dramatic and more aggressive Eisenstein than most others but he has charm and his singing is glorious – and sensitive. This recording is a worthy tribute to his memory. His Rosalinde is sung by a 22-year-old Anny Schlemm, who sounds more mature than her age and is absolutely splendid in Klänge der Heimat. Herbert Brauer, whose recorded legacy doesn't seem to be too comprehensive, is an excellent Falke and the minor roles are also well taken with an extra plus for Anneliese Müller's 'visual' Orlofsky.

The recording was for a while available on CD (Deutsche Grammophon) some fifteen years ago. I didn't hear it then but I'm happy to have had the opportunity now. Considering the age and some technical shortcomings it will hardly be a first choice for a library recording but as a complement to one of the classic sets it is highly attractive. The two Karajan recordings, Boskovsky's early 1970s version – for long my favourite version but I tend to waver sometimes – Böhm (without dialogue) and Carlos Kleiber (DG) are the cream; for a splendid DVD version there is Domingo's Covent Garden set with Prey, Te Kanawa and Luxon and for the most Viennese of all the Krauss recording is more than worth the money. Real aficionados will need them all.

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Pizzicato 1/2009 (Alain Steffen - 2009.01.01)

pizzicato
Remy Franck's Journal about Classical Music

Abenteuer Musik

Wenn es derzeit einen Preis für die interessantesten Booklets geben würde, so wäre meine Wahl schnell gefallen. Anstatt die immergleichen langweiligen und theoretischen Werkeinführungen zu lesen, ist es eine reine Freude, dass uns die Firma Audite endlich mit musikhistorischem Hintergrundmaterial versorgt und so auf die Künstler, Orchester und Aufnahmebedingungen detailliert eingeht. Somit rückt Audite die Aufnahme selbst in den Mittelpunkt und reiht nicht nur eine historische Aufnahme an die andere. Demnach sind die Erklärungen zu den drei uns hier vorliegenden Fricsay-Einspielungen für den Liebhaber enorm interessant und lassen die Aufnahmen in einem ganz anderen Licht erscheinen. Die Gesamtaufnahmen von Mozarts Entführung und Johann Strauß Fledermaus, beide 1949 eingespielt, waren zwar schon bei anderen Firmen erhältlich, werden aber durch sorgfältige Aufbereitung der Audite-Produktionen weit übertroffen.

Fricsays ‚Entführung' von 1949 ist der fünf Jahre späteren DGG-Aufnahme in meinen Augen leicht überlegen. Sie ist in erster Linie lebendiger und spontaner, berührt und amüsiert weitaus mehr als die etwas steril und kontrolliert anmutende Produktion von 1954. Sari Barabas ist eine leichte und sehr lyrische Konstanze, Anton Dermota ein geschmeidiger und stilvollendeter Belmonte, Rita Streich gibt die wohl beste Blondchen der Schallplattengeschichte während Helmut Krebs als Pedrillo keine Wünsche offen lässt. Josef Greindl ist als Osmin einfach köstlich, allein seine stimmgewandte Interpretation ist die Anschaffung dieser Doppel-CD wert.

Fricsays Fledermaus stand immer etwas im Schatten von den beiden Wiener Produktionen unter Clemens Krauss und Herbert von Karajan. Eigentlich zu unrecht, wie man leicht feststellen kann. Die Dialogregie von Heinz Tietjen, der sich ebenfalls für die Dialoge bei der Entführung verantwortlich zeigte, ist vorzüglich, der Gesang besitzt allerhöchstes Niveau, wenn auch der Einstein von Peter Anders (wie auch der von Patzack unter Krauss) Geschmackssache bleibt. Fricsay distanziert sich in seinem virtuosen Dirigat von der typisch wienerischen Operette und zeigt, dass man mit straffen Tempi und markanten Akzenten diese Oper erst gar nicht in die Nähe des Kitsches bringen muss.

Auch die Aufnahmen von Mozarts Symphonien Nr. 29, 39 und 40 sind historische Perlen. Fricsay stellte bereits Anfang der Fünfzigerjahre die Weichen für ein neues Mozart-Verständnis, das sich durch extreme Klarheit, einen dramatischen Ablauf und einen konsequenten Ablauf definiert. Kein Gefühl von Lieblichkeit mag da aufkommen, er strafft die Musik, verzichtet auf Nettigkeit und zeigt Mozart unverblümt und ehrlich als einen modernen, ernsthaften und kritischen Komponisten. Ein Mozart-Bild, das sicherlich nicht von seinen Kollegen Furtwängler, Walter und Karajan geteilt wurde. Nur Otto Klemperer hatte vor Harnoncourt und Co. den gleichen Mut, Mozart von dieser Schiene der Gefälligkeit abzubringen.

Demnach sind alle drei Produktionen wichtige musikhistorische Dokumente, die wir heute als richtungsweisend erkennen und aus denen wir auch jetzt noch lernen können. Die drei Mozart-Symphonien und die Entführung besitzen darüber hinaus einen wirklichen Referenzcharakter. Und dank eines an sich hervorragenden Klanges kann man sich diese Aufnahmen mit allergrößtem Vergnügen anhören. Eine Firma wie Audite kann man nur ermutigen, so weiter zu machen und dem Musikliebhaber weitere Schätze zugänglich zu machen.

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klassik.com Januar 2009 (Christian Gohlke - 2009.01.19)
source: http://magazin.klassik.com/reviews/revie...

Amüsement! Amüsement!

Amüsement! Amüsement!

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Scherzo deciembre 2009 (Enrique Pérez Adrián - 2009.12.01)

Tesoros Radiofónicos

Tesoros Radiofónicos

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American Record Guide September/October 2009 (Traubner - 2009.09.01)

I do tend to squirm when faced with yet another Fledermaus, but this 1949 Berlin radio broadcast grabbed me from the start and never let go. If ever you want proof that Die Fledermaus is, indeed, the summit of Viennese operetta, listen to this.

Mind you, this is not its first appearance on CD. It was released not that long ago in an excellent series of German radio broadcasts of operettas on Membran, and it has also appeared on Melodram 29001. But the sound here is excellent, beautifully remastered by Ludger Boeckenhoff.

The cast members are not just top notch and in the flower of youthful energy. Their acting is also on a far higher, fizzier level than is usual in studio recordings. There's none of that whispery reading of the lines tfiat so disfigures a number of EMI operettas. This is due to the libretto adaptation and radio direction by Heinz Tietjen, a theatrical figure of importance before, during, and after the Nazi era. One really has the sense of being in a theatre on a particularly good evening, and the whole performance is infused with a slightly inebriated quality – the fault of King Champagne, naturally.

Ferenc Fricsay's conducting has a well-thought-out deliberateness that is in piquant counterpoint with the dialog. "Schani" (Strauss) would have been pleased with Fricsay's results. There is also a Berlin buoyancy to the performance that spices up the Viennese lethargy one often settles for in a typical Fledermaus.

Anny Schlemm and Rita Streich are wonderfully vivacious as Rosalinde and Adele, acting out their numbers charmingly and pointedly. The handsome Peter Anders must have been a wonder to see and hear as (a tenor) Eisenstein – he sings robustly and openly. By contrast, the Alfred of Helmut Krebs sometimes ceases singing altogether and drops into a sort of parlando mannerism I found novel but not necessarily refreshing. But this is different from the usual ham opera-tenor characterization one gets from an Alfred. The Orlofsky of mezzo-soprano Anneliese Mueller is also quite rich, and the Dr Falke of Herbert Brauer sets a nice, fruity tone as the evening's sly compere.

The excellent notes by Habakuk Traber (in German and English) help unravel the complicated political situation in immediate postwar Germany. Indeed, this recording was made just at the time of the Berlin Blockade!

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Ópera Actual enero 2009 (PN - 2009.01.01)

Esta versión de Die Fledermaus se realizó para la radio en Berlín en 1949,...

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ouverture Das Klassik-Blog Samstag, 27. Juni 2009 (reagenz - 2009.06.27)

Diese Aufnahme stammt aus dem Jahre 1949 – und sie lässt schon bei der...

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Classic Collection December 2010 (- 2010.12.01)

This radio take from 1949 brings us a Fledermaus for the ages. It is easy to...

Full review text restrained for copyright reasons.

Fanfare Issue 32:6 (July/Aug 2009) (Christopher Williams - 2009.07.01)

This radio take from 1949 brings us a Fledermaus for the ages. It is easy to forget the large number of significant recordings left by the great Hungarian conductor Ferenc Fricsay, who has become one of the forgotten, underestimated figures of his generation. But this recording is something new and significant. Never released on vinyl, it is also a document of a troubled time, the third operatic project of the young, 35-year-old conductor's contract with the fledgling RIAS Symphony Orchestra, broadcast in Berlin during the blockade. Many of the numbers are cut or abridged for the purposes of the broadcast, but the essence of the work carries through with full resplendence.

The recording launches with a rhythmically crisp and briskly articulated overture, in which the slow sections are dramatically and dreamily set apart from the faster passages. Waltz melodies are consistently pointed with an anticipated second beat, marking fluent familiarity with Viennese performance practice. The first act bounces from strength to strength, beginning with Helmut Krebs, bell-toned, flexible, and vain tenor, a vocal match for Rita Streich's pert and often stratospheric Adele. Particularly striking are the mock tragedy and the giddy acceleration of the trio "So muss allein ich bleiben" and the grotesque distortions by the instrumental soloists to undercut the pomp of Eisenstein's march off to jail.

Act II opens at breakneck pace, chorus spitting out the text with staccato clarity. Anneliese Müller brings to Orlofsky a clear focus and purity of tone, with ringing chest voice, especially in "Chacun à son gout." This model of elocution is followed by one of the most finely modulated renditions of Adele's laughing song I have ever heard, Streich's tight, warbly, and flutelike vibrato and matinee-idol presence recalling a long-vanished golden age of operetta singing. She finds her foil, naturally, in the rich-voiced but equally pert Rosalinde of Anny Schlemm, whose flexible and richly colored "Csárdas" compares with the best on disc. The velvet toned Herbert Brauer as Falke and ringing baritone of Peter Anders's Eisenstein are also models of their kind. Incredibly, the "Brüderlein/Schwesterlein" ensemble that follows the string of famous

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act-II solo numbers seems to cap them all in a magically suspended animation, to which the lovingly shaped “gala” Blue Danube waltz that follows acts as a reviving antidote.

Throughout, the shaping power of Fricsay’s baton can be sensed, building ensembles with surprising yet inevitable-seeming crescendos and subtle tempo gradations. Though it errs, when it errs, on the fast side, this is work that compares favorably and impressively with the classic recordings by Karajan and Carlos Kleiber.

Sound quality is remarkably crisp and clear for a 1949 monaural recording; equally crisp is the diction of all the singers, preternaturally so. This is Strauss singing and playing at the highest, most idiomatic level. No libretto is included, but this should offer no obstacles for devotees of this warhorse. Urgently recommended for its obvious historical and performance values. Despite the plethora of classic recordings of the Waltz King’s greatest warhorse, I will still turn to this document frequently for its ideal representations of the work’s many memorable moments. In a way, I envy that 1949 radio audience who first heard the broadcast.

Gramophone December 2008 (Andrew Lamb - 2008.12.01)

GRAMOPHONE
THE WORLD'S BEST CLASSICAL MUSIC REVIEWS

Superb soloists and sense of ensemble – Fricsay’s Fledermaus truly takes flight

The history of complete Fledermaus recordings post-WW2 is generally considered to begin with the 1950 Decca recording with Clemens Krauss conducting the VPO. This Fricsay version, though, predates it, having been recorded for West Berlin Radio at the Titania Palast in November 1949. It emerged from radio vaults onto CD in 1995 under the DG imprint. It has latterly appeared also in Membran's operetta series, and it now appears in this new transfer in Audite's Ferenc Fricsay Edition.

Its currency is fully deserved. Fricsay was a fine (and prolific) conductor of Johann Strauss, and his roots were, after all, as much on the Danube as Krauss's. If his Fledermaus Overture opens more soberly than some other versions, that serves merely to emphasise the excitement of the final accelerando. Throughout, the inflections that are so essential to a truly idiomatic Fledermaus come utterly naturally.

Though it will rule out the recording as a first choice for today, the sound quality is a good deal fuller than that of the Krauss version. There's the advantage of dialogue and sound effects too. Certainly the recording is a must for admirers not only of Fricsay but also of great vocalists of the past. It comes, moreover, from an era when singers knew their place. By contrast with today's recordings featuring international singers jetting in from around the world, this is essentially an ensemble production, showcasing leading Berlin singers of the time as much as the Krauss recording does Vienna singers. Peter Anders was a lyric tenor of immense grace, his career tragically cut short by a car accident in 1954. His Rosalinde is the young Anny Schlemm – only 22 years old, still a soprano, and wonderfully fresh-voiced. There's the elegant Helmut Krebs, too, as Alfred. Best of all, perhaps, is Rita Streich, as sprightly an Adele as one could expect to find.

Even for those already blessed with a collection of Fledermäuse, this is not a version to be ignored. The expert remastering is by Ludger Böckenhoff, who also offers online at www.audite.de a fascinating commentary on the recording.

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??? (George Dorris - 2008.11.30)

Music on Disc

Only three of Johann Strauss's fifteen operettas achieved real success, while even The Gypsy Baron and A Night in Venice lag behind the popularity of Die Fledermaus. But the others are surely worth more than an occasional hearing, so I welcome this chance to discover two more: Das Spitzentuch der Königin: (1880), his seventh, and Fürstin Ninetta (1893), his twelfth. The former, which achieved its greatest success in the United States as The Queen's Lace Handkerchie, has another of his too-frequent weak librettos, but as expected it's packed with melody and high spirits, especially in the joyous second act, only some of which turn up in the glorious waltz "Roses from the South," taken from this work.

The plot concerns a young king (a "trouser role") whose neglected queen persuades him to dismiss his autocratic minister after many tangles involving Cervantes! The performance is good, although the king's piquant song praising truffles gets a mannered reading. The notes are trilingual, but no texts. My only other complaint is that by cutting out the snippets of dialogue it would just fit on one CD.

Princess Ninetta also brims with melody, expert orchestration, and charm. The weakness of its book – the usual amorous tangles and confused identities, here set in an Italian hotel – vanishes on records as songs, ensembles, waltzes, and polkas blend into another score full of delights. The dialogue has been omitted in this performance by a stylish Swedish cast, getting it onto one disc, while the libretto is available online. Another delightful Strauss rarity is Simplicius from 1887, in a fine Zurich recording of, on EMI Classics 557009 2. Let's hope for more of these revivals, starting with The Merry War and his only opera, Ritter Pásmán, with its elaborate ballet sequence.

Die Fledermaus can also be heard in a strong performance from a Berlin 1949 broadcast. With Ferenc Fricsay leading an experienced cast including Peter Anders and the young Rita Streich, it captures the verve and melodic richness of Strauss' s irresistible score, with enough dialogue to carry the plot and "The Blue Danube" serving as the act 2 dance music. The sound is inevitably dated, but these artists indeed have the style in their veins and I'd rank this just after the classic recordings of Clement Krauss and Karajan. The notes focus on Fricsay and the occasion.

Die Blau Mazur (1920), the nineteenth of Lehár's twenty-seven operettas (not counting nine major reworkings), is set around Vienna, although the titular blue mazurka is Polish, the last dance of a ball as dawn breaks. Here the complications start with a wedding ceremony and the usual nonsense ensues, with room for as much musical variety as possible, until the couple are reunited at the end of act 3. The score is vintage Lehár, if lacking the kind of instantly recognizable number that made The Merry Widow and The Land of Smiles lasting successes, but it has its charms and its own share of Lehár delights passed around the large cast before that final dance. All this is well handled by these forces from Frankfurt-an-der-Oder, along with substantial dialogue. The notes are also good, but no libretto.

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Diverdi Magazin n°172 (julio-agosto 2008) (Arturo Reverter - 2008.07.01)

DIVERDI.COM

Finura y sentido rítmico

AUDITE rescata un Murciélago con Ferenc Fricsay, Peter Anders y Rita Streich

Ferenc Fricsay tenía fama de severo, de infatigable trabajador, de constructor eficiente. Sin duda su preparación musical lo avalaba para elevar edificios sinfónicos de límpidas estructuras y para dotar del máxilmo equilibrio a las más intrincadas producciones operísticas. A poco de iniciar su actividad con la Orquesta RIAS de Berlín, que desempeñó un tiempo en paralelo con su rectoría de la Ópera del Estado, realizó la grabación de Die Fledermaus que determina esta crónica. Un logro que, extrañamente, ha permanecido oscurecido durante muchos años; hasta ahora.

Es una suerte que Audite lo haya recuperado, porque estamos, sin duda, ante una de las más jugosas y transparentes versiones fonográficas de esta magistral opereta. El director húngaro estaba en el secreto no ya de la precisión, de la exactitud del ataque -que lo convertía en un formidable intérprete de Bartók-, sino del balanceo. Sabía como pocos marcar un tempo férreo, animado con frecuencia, y, a la vez, jugar brillantemente con el rubato y manejar primorosamente el rallentando; lo que observamos en la esplendorosa obertura. El sonido, bien reprocesado, es el característico del músico: un punto agresivo, restallante en los acordes, ácido en los timbres. El fraseo es minucioso, rápido, de una urgencia que imprime al discurso movilidad, amenidad y comunicatividad. Realmente chispeante. En los diálogos, las réplicas son veloces, sin respiro; en una línea vitalista que envuelve a la narración en una fustigante proyección hacia un final acelerado.

Sin el encanto vienés de un Boskowsky, sin la sensualidad de un Karajan, sin el sello señorial de un Krauss y sin la espumosidad y fantasía de un Carlos Kleiber, este Murciélago es, sin embargo, una buena muestra de presteza, finura y sentido del ritmo. El reparto funciona bien, aunque hay que reconocer que no rodas las voces son de primera; ni están en las partes adecuadas. Así, el tenor ligero Helmut Krebs no nos parece el idóneo para vestir al cantante italiano. Las bazas fuertes están en la Adele de Rita Streich, que nos admira por su vibrato eléctrico y su precisión, y en el von Eisenstein del gran Peter Anders, papel que sirve con sobrados recursos y autoridad.

Die Tonkunst Juli 2013 (Tobias Pfleger - 2013.07.01)

DIE TONKUNST

Edition Ferenc Fricsay – Werke von Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Rossini, Bizet, Brahms, Strauß, Verdi, Bartók u. a.

Edition Ferenc Fricsay – Werke von Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Rossini, Bizet, Brahms, Strauß, Verdi, Bartók u. a.

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ensuite Kulturmagazin Mai 2016 (Francois Lilienfeld - 2016.05.01)

Aufnahmen mit Ferenc Fricsay (2.Teil)

Erwähnt sei noch, dass audite auf einer Doppel-CD die in der letzten Ensuite-Nummer hochgepriesene Aufnahme der «Fledermaus» als Einzelausgabe veröffentlicht hat (audite 23 411), mit einer hochinteressanten Dokumentation von Habakuk Traber im Beiheft.

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