



Press Info:

**THE RIAS
BACH CANTATAS PROJECT**

(1949-1952)



soprano: **Johanna Behrend • Edith Berger-Krebs
Gertrud Birmele • Marie-Luise Denicke
Agnes Giebel • Gerda Lammers
Lilo Rolwes • Gunthild Weber**
alto: **Lorri Lail • Ingrid Lorenzen •
Annelies Westen • Charlotte Wolf-Matthäus**
tenor: **Helmut Krebs**
baritone: **Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau • Walter Hauck**
bass: **Gerhard Niese**

**RIAS-Kammerorchester • RIAS-Kammerchor
RIAS-Knabenchor • Karl Ristenpart, conductor**

(CANTATAS BWV 4, 19, 21, 22, 31, 32, 37, 38, 39, 42, 47, 52, 56, 58,
73, 76, 79, 88, 106, 108, 127, 140, 160, 164, 176, 178, 180, 199, 202)

This 9-CD boxed set of first releases from the RIAS archives presents the first ever attempt at a recording of the complete Bach cantatas.



For everyone who is interested in the history of Bach interpretation and in the development of Germany's post-1945 cultural rebuilding, these recordings represent a significant enrichment. From 1946, Karl Ristenpart established choral and orchestral ensembles at the RIAS Berlin, directing the RIAS-Kammerchor and the RIAS-Kammerorchester. With these ensembles, and emerging young singers (including Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, Helmut Krebs and Agnes Giebel), Karl Ristenpart and Elsa Schiller, then head of music at the RIAS, embarked in 1947 upon a recording series of the complete Bach cantatas. However, it proved impossible to realise the project in its entirety. The twenty-nine cantatas which survive in the RIAS archives document a Bach ideal which is pioneering even by today's standards: thanks to small-scale forces the musical structures are distinct and transparent, and the singers link their articulation to that of the instrumentalists. This interpretation, which is free of any monumentalism, paved the way, aesthetically, for historically informed performance practice.

This release is furnished with a "producer's comment"  by producer Ludger Böckenhoff on our home page at <http://audite.de/en/download/file/373/pdf.html>.



This release forms part of our series "Legendary Recordings" and bears the stamp "1st Master Release". The term stands for the exceptional quality of audite's archive releases which are all, without exception, produced using original tapes from the radio archives. Usually, these are the original analogue tapes with tape speeds of up to 76 cm/s, which are of astonishingly high quality, even by today's standards. In addition, the process of re-mastering – executed with professional expertise and sensitivity – reveals hitherto hidden details of the interpretations, creating a sonic image of superior quality. CD releases produced from private recordings of radio broadcasts or old 78rpm records cannot match this level of sound quality.

Marketing / Promotion:

- exclusive 9-CD hardcover boxed set
- extensive additional material available as a free download at www.audite.de
- press pack for pre-presentation
- extensive press and radio promotion (advertisements in *Fono Forum*, *Pizzicato* etc.)

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