

**Edition von Karajan (I) – G. Verdi:  
Requiem**

aud 23.415

EAN: 4022143234155

Fanfare (Mortimer H. Frank - 2009.05.01)

This is a significant document, not only of Karajan's early, post-World War II work but of his four distinguished soloists as well. Moreover, it is superior to some of his subsequent performances (both studio and live) of this towering score that have appeared on CD. But, according to listings provided by arkivmusic.com, this is the second release of this performance by Audite, the first one, bearing the same numbering, having been issued in 1970. The sound is considerably better than that in many live products to have emerged from Salzburg at the time: the background is silent, with the soloists well forward. But the chorus and orchestra seem cramped, almost 8H-like. Moreover, the loudest passages are often shrill and may, on wide-range equipment, lacerate the ears, especially in some instances that tend to shatter. Considerable improvement, however, can be obtained with a flexible 10-band equalizer. The soloists are clear and impressive, and Karajan does not tend to drag some sections as he did in later efforts. This is certainly not a performance that should be one's primary choice, but it is well worth investigating as a supplementary acquisition for those interested in the singers or the conductor. The set is tagged Volume1, but it is not clear whether this numbering refers to a series devoted to the conductor or to the Salzburg Festival. A welcome virtue of the production is Audite's 23 bands, enabling easy access to each of the work's sections.