



Paul Kletzki conducts Brahms, Schubert & Beethoven

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Gramophone (Rob Cowan - 01.08.2016)

GRAMOPHONE Kletzki in Lucerne

An interesting Paul Kletzki release from Audite reproduces a 1946 concert performance of an interpretation that may be familiar to some readers as a set of five Columbia 78s, namely Brahms Fourth Symphony played by the Swiss Festival Orchestra (or Lucerne Festival Orchestra as we commonly know it nowadays). The actual recording sessions lasted until September 7, which was also the day of an additional concert – given in aid of charity – which is what is reproduced here. Kletzki's performance is refreshingly bright-textured, with careful though never cautious handling of the first movement's many dialogic episodes, a warm-hearted Andante moderato, a bracing scherzo and a finale that although indulgently appreciative of the flute solo keeps a firm grip on the passacaglia structure. I loved it, though the transfer engineers have been a little over-zealous in their efforts to reduce surface noise. The same concert included Schubert's Unfinished, played without its first-movement repeat but very sensitively interpreted, and a dramatic account of Beethoven's Overture Leonore No 3. I've not heard many Kletzki performances that leave as strong an impression as the Brahms. There is no applause.