



Carl Schuricht conducts Mozart & Brahms

aud 95.645

EAN: 4022143956453



Gramophone (Rob Cowan - 01.09.2017)

GRAMOPHONE

Schuricht and Casadesus at the Lucerne 'Festival

First to clarify: this is not the same K595 from Robert Casadesus and Carl Schuricht that appears on Orfeo (C536 001B), though the two are very alike, while the live VPO Brahms Second post-dates that recently reissued in 'Carl Schuricht: the Complete Decca Recordings' (7/17) by roughly nine years. This Mozart features the Swiss Festival Orchestra (the Orfeo, from Salzburg, is with the VPO) and finds Casadesus on top form, possibly out-classing his various other recordings – live and studio – of the same work. Schuricht directs fluid, well-paced accompaniment, stylishly shaped and beautifully played. Right from his first entry, Casadesus displays his signature clarity of finger work, building crescendos with impeccable judgement, switching between a sprightly staccato and warming legato. The *Larghetto* conjures up a mood of utter stillness: this truly is artistry of the highest order.

The Brahms is mellower than its predecessor, less volatile too. But there are moments that are unforgettable: the gently nudged strings beneath the solo horn at 12'23" into the first movement; the glowing blend of lower strings and brass for the second movement's second subject; and, most magical, the return of the outer section of the *Allegretto grazioso* (from 3' 15"), so much more gentle than on the older version. Towards the close of the finale, from 7' 55", Schuricht gives precedence to the lower strings' motif, which greatly intensifies the build-up to the coda. The Decca version is similar but nowhere near as effective. Both works are captured in fine mono sound. And if you want to investigate a compelling follow-up, try Casadesus and Schuricht with the Orchestre National de la RTF in Brahms's Second Concerto (on INA) – not perfect by any means, but consistently gripping.

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THE RECORDING

Mozart Piano Concerto, K595
Brahms Symphony No. 2
Casadesus; Swiss Festival
Orchestra; VPO / Schuricht
Audite © 95 645

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