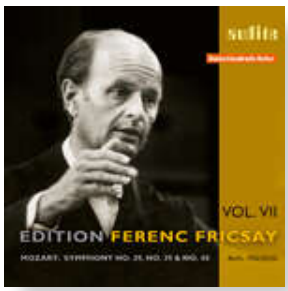

Edition Ferenc Fricsay (VII) – W.A. Mozart: Symphony No. 29, No. 39 & No. 40

aud 95.596

EAN: 4022143955968

Gramophone (Lindsay Kemp - 2009.06.01)

GRAMOPHONE

Elegant Mozart combines fine interpretations with slick playing technical untidinesses liable to occur in any live situation, but more important than that is the fact that these are readings rich with class and understanding. Fricsay may have trained his orchestra to play the notes faultlessly first and then put the expression in afterwards (so the booklet-notes tell us) but the end result is organic, living, breathing Mozart, classical in flavour yet balanced with just the right amount of tender romantic warmth and love. The string tone in particular is clean and untainted by routine vibrato yet never risks undernourishment; the opening movements of Symphonies Nos 29 and 40 are a touch slower than usual yet suffer no loss of grace or momentum (even when Fricsay stamps his foot in No 40 he does so with elegance!); and the first movement of No 39 achieves a Beethovenian breadth and strength, especially in its slow introduction. Elsewhere, the slow movements themselves unfold serenely with a wealth of light-handed interpretative detail, and minuets are bold but buoyant. Bright and clear sound belies the recording's age, leaving the way open to appreciate just what finely wrought Mozart this is.

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