



## International Press Reviews of the film - classic about Bruckner's life and work

*Running time: 131 minutes. Digital remastered on DVD*

### **THE TIMES, London:**

All aspects of his life are deftly portrayed in Hans Conrad Fischer's film. Bruckner is allowed to speak for himself through some of his longest paragraphs of sound and through his best interpreters.

### **DAILY TELEGRAPH, London:**

The music is of a very high standard throughout, and excellently chosen. A film in fact both imaginative and purely factual and centred not on the composer's undoubted personal frustrations and inhibitions, but on the music to which these were no more than incidental.

### **BBC, London:**

It seems the Hans Conrad Fischer film could well convert a good few more listeners who hitherto have regarded Bruckner's music as vast and inaccessible. If you want to go to the cinema to see a film which combines an illustrated life of Bruckner, plus a lot of music, well performed, then this is your thing.

### **INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, London & Paris:**

It is a film of Brucknerian dimensions, and of Brucknerian pace and solemnity.

### **SÜDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG, Munich:**

It is all touched on and supported by anecdotes: Bruckner's complicated inner life and the changing idea of the symphony, the earthly, all too earthly as well as the metaphysical realm. Clear, elucidating language, shines lights on the environment and on largely unacknowledged figures.

### **ARBEITER ZEITUNG, Vienna:**

A revolutionary, quietly tearing down traditional distinctions between fiction, cultural- and documentary filmmaking, Hans Conrad Fischer also breaks with conventions which have been adopted into the language of musical history.

### **DIE ZEIT, Hamburg:**

To deliver a life history in pictures of a man, whose character is reflected in opposing behaviour, expression and work, a conglomerate of diligence and neurosis, self-confidence and inhibition, ingenuity and angst, raised since his earliest childhood with humility before God, to this challenge Hans Conrad Fischer does full justice with delicacy and precision, with tact and the necessary candour.

### **THE STAR, Johannesburg, South Africa:**

In this film documenting Anton Bruckner's life and music Hans Conrad Fischer surpasses the exceptional standard of his biographies of J S Bach, Beethoven and Mozart. Bruckner is seen in conflict with himself and the world around him, a controversial figure, an object of derision knifed by critics. He is revealed as a lonely and lacking in self-confidence, driven by his genius to forge a major link between the Classical and the Romantic eras and the musical achievement of his century.

### **LOS ANGELES TIMES:**

Motion pictures have not been terribly kind to composers. In fact, the genre of the musical biography could be declared, for all practical purposes, a campy disaster area. Enter a German historian-producer-director-musicologist named Hans Conrad Fischer. The departed geniuses of the lyric muse have a cinematic champion after all.