

The Bruckner Symphony Editions used by Stanislaw Skrowaczewski

It has been noted on several broadcasts that the editions used by conductor Stanislaw Skrowaczewski are in fact "his own" editions. In listening to Skrowaczewski's performances of some Bruckner Symphonies, it is clear that the performances often include elements from both Haas and Nowak Editions. I recently had the opportunity to ask Maestro Skrowaczewski about his "editions," and this was his reply:

January 8, 2009
Hotel Monopole (via fax)
Katowice, Poland

- 1) Versions: "I played always the last one, usually edited by Nowak. In 8th Symphony I used Nowak and Haas because I accepted certain Nowak cuts but not all. (Finale)"
- 2) "My 'editing' consists only in respect to bowing strings and to careful dynamics. No instrumental changes with the exception of a very few cancellations of winds, and very rare (mostly in the first movement of the '9th) 'redistribution' of horns (when there are eight)."
- 3) "The '2nd' Symphony is also mixed Nowak and Haas."

Regarding his performances of the Symphony in D Minor:

February 16, 2009
Minnesota (via letter)

- 1) "Finale of the 'Nullte': Indeed I play bar 252 trombones two octaves lower, 253 one octave lower and 255 as written in the Nowak score. I heard this in the early 1960's in Vienna (!) (I don't remember who conducted or which orchestra) – I loved it! Since then I hear it this way..."
- 2) Flutes, bassoons: Bars 286 and 288 – Flutes double the passage simply to let the woodwind's answer to 1st and 2nd violins be heard. Obviously the flutes are two octaves higher, but bassoons stay as in the score. Otherwise, the great polyphony and imitations so rich in Bruckner's scores are lost to the listener."

My sincere thanks to Maestro Skrowaczewski for clarifying these questions.

John F. Berky
February 21, 2009