

Hi John,

Hope all is going well. Here is my list:

. 4th – Klemperer conducting the Vienna Symphony [Vox LP, mono]

This library recording was the **first time I heard a Bruckner work**. I was confused by the “stop and start” nature of the musical structure, but something about the music attracted me and the more I came back to it, the better I liked it! This performance of the 4th is the **fastest** I’ve ever heard it done, clocking-in at under 50 minutes!

. 2nd – Not only my **favorite Bruckner symphony**, but **my favorite classical piece period!** The happiest day of my life, was the day I heard it performed at Carnegie Hall with Haitink and the Concertgebouw! When the conductor had his baton raised prior to the first downbeat, he was smiling from “ear to ear”!

. 9th – My favorite completion is the SPCM collaboration with Harding conducting the Swedish Radio Symphony. A close second is the Bill Carragan.

I am a hardcore devotee of the FIRST CONCEPT versions of the symphonies. I find that these versions make the most sense and are the most interesting, because these are purely Bruckner’s conception, not diluted and weakened by cuts and other alterations by well-meaning disciples and conductors!

I will be contacting you at the end of this month as per our previous communication, for a copy of Schaller performing the 1866 version of the 1st edited by Carragan. I am really looking forward to this!

Concert performances:

. NY Phil “Bruckner Cycle”, 1965. They performed **four** of the symphonies in the same concert season; #'s 3, 5, 7 and 9 I believe. I attended the first two performances. Three was the 1889 version with Skrowaczewski, and five was conducted by William Steinberg. He had to conduct sitting-down on a chair from the podium. This was a wonderful performance, in which he had the entire brass section stand for the grand coda at the end of the symphony! I had tears in my eyes!

. The only classical concert I ever attended with my brother, was Joseph Krips doing the 4th at Lincoln Center with the NY Phil. Some people in the audience fell asleep during the slow movement, but were “jolted back to reality” by the powerful opening of the final movement! The double bass section on the right side of the stage was passing around a bag of peanuts to munch on, to pass the time until their services were needed again! I for one, enjoyed the Krips performance very much. The first work on the program was the Hindemith Variations on a Theme by Carl Maria von Weber.

**Best Regards,
Norm**

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