

RRG Wartime Recordings: The Ones that Got Away

By John F. Berky

At the offices of the Deutsches Rundfunk Archive in Frankfurt, there is a catalog that is simply marked:

**Schallaufnahmen
Der Reich-Rundfunk G.m.b.H.
von Ende 1929 bis Anfang 1933**

From the page attached below, it shows the Bruckner recordings that the Reich-Rundfunk produced during those years. Some of these were single sided "versuchaufnahme" (experimental recordings) or single movements, nevertheless the thought of hearing these recordings is tantalizing indeed.

Symphony N. 4

Andante fragment (4'05")
-Nationalsozialistisches Reichs-Sinfonieorchester
-Franz Adam
20.05.33
Passau, Dom
Matrix: ?lchn 441

Symphony No. 4

Andante (14'05")
-Breslauer Funkporchester
-Ernst Prade
18.09.34
Senderaum
Matrix: Brsl 21216/19

Symphony No. 5

Adagio fragment (4'29")
Finale fragment (5'07")
-Berlin Funkorchester
-Eugen Jochum
19.05.32
Philharmonie
Matrix: Bln 205.1901/03

Symphony No. 5

Introduction (21'12")
Adagio (18'22")
Scherzo (12'28")
Finale (26'20")

-Berlin Funkorchester

-Carl Schuricht

30.12.35

Saal 1 (concert recording)

Matrix: Bln 27551/74

Symphony No. 6

Conclusion of First Movement (20")

Part of Majestoso (12'10")

-Berlin Funkorchester

-Jascha Horenstein

18.02.31

Senderaum

Matrix: Bln 543/45

Symphony No. 6

Adagio (17'24")

-Rundfunk-Symphonie-Orchester Frankfurt

-Hans Rosbaud

27.11.33

Gr. Saal

Matrix: Ffm 1365/69

Symphony No. 7

Fragment of Adagio (4'25")

-Hamburger Philharmonisches Orchester

-Karl Muck

09.10.30

Philharmonie

Matrix: Bln 181

Symphony No. 7

Adagio (16'43")

-Berlin Philharmonisches Orchester

-Eugen Jochum

07.12.32

Philharmonie

Bln 212.0705/08

Symphony No. 7

Allegro moderato (17'38")

Adagio (22'31")

Scherzo (10'18")

Finale (11'05")

-Orchester des Reichssender Frankfurt

-Hans Rosbaud

28.01.35

Gr. Saal des Saalbaues

Matrix: Ffm 22557/76

Symphony No. 7

Scherzo (10'39")

-Orchester des Reichssender Frankfurt

-Hans Rosbaud

03.02.35

Gr. Saal

Matrix: Ffm 22593/95

Symphony No. 8

Allegro moderato (16'05")

-Franz Schalk

-Berliner Funkorchester

25.11.30

Senderaum

Matrix: RRG 1165/68

Symphony No. 9

Feierlich misterioso (21'23")

Scherzo (9'47")

Adagio (26'27")

-Berleiner Funkorchester

-Eugen Jochum

15.02.33

Philharmonie (concert recording)

Matrix: Bln 302.1501/16

Symphony No. 9

Adagio (22'50")

-Frankfurter Funkorchester

-Hans Rosbaud

24.04.33

Saalbau

Matrix: Ffm 1091/96

Symphony No. 9

Scherzo (9'53")

-Frankfurter Funkorchester

-Hans Rosbaud

07.03.34

Saalbau

Matrix: Ffm 18614/17

Unfortunately, none of these recordings are known to have survived the war. It is not clear if they were single copy masters or if they were reproduced for distribution to the separate RRG stations. What is known is that many of the RRG recordings were taken back to the U.S.S.R. after the war but those recordings were returned to Germany during the Glasnost. It is also possible that these recordings may have returned home with soldiers as wartime souvenirs, but to date, none of these historic recordings have surfaced.