

## Great Conductors of The 20th Century Vol. 37 - Fritz Reiner

Written by bluesever

Sunday, 17 February 2013 17:19 -

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CD1 1 Ludwig van Beethoven - *Coriolan Overture, Op. 62* 7:02 Johannes Brahms - Piano Concerto No. 2 in B flat major, Op. 83  
2 I. *Allegro non troppo* 16:00 3 II. *Allegro appassionato* 8:09 4 III. *Andante - Più adagio* 11:59  
5 IV. *Allegretto grazioso - Un poco più presto* 8:55  
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart - Symphony No. 36 in C major ("Linz"), K. 425  
6 I. *Adagio - Allegro spiritoso* 7:59 7 II. *Andante* 6:49 8 III. *Menuetto - Trio* 3:34 9 IV. *Presto* 4:44  
Felix Mendelssohn - March for orchestra in D major ("Cornelius"), Op. 108  
10 *Scherzo* 4:35  
Chicago Symphony Orchestra (1-9) he Robin Hood Dell Orchestra (Philadelphia Orchestra) (10) CD2  
1 Johannes Brahms - *Tragic Overture, in D minor, Op. 81* 12:03  
Richard Wagner - *Die Götterdämmerung* (Twilight of the Gods), opera, WWV 86d  
2 *Morgendämmerung und Siegfrieds Rheinfahrt* 13:22  
Béla Bartók - Hungarian Sketches (Magyar képek), for orchestra, Sz. 97, BB 103  
3 *Swineherd's Dance* 2:12 4 Richard Strauss - *Till Eulenspiegels lustige Streiche, Op. 28* (TrV 171) 14:27  
Maurice Ravel - *Le tombeau de Couperin*, for orchestra  
5 I. *Prélude. Vif* 3:08 6 II. *Forlane. Allegretto* 3:31 7 III. *Menuet. Allegro moderato* 4:19 8 IV. *Rigaudon. Assez vif* 2:48  
Manuel de Falla - *El Amor brujo*, ballet for mezzo-soprano & orchestra in 1 act, G. 68  
9 I. *Introducción y Escena* 0:29 10 II. *En la cueva: La noche* 1:41 11 III. *Canción del amor dolido* 1:30 12 IV. *El aparecido* 0:13 13 V. *Danza del terror* 1:54 14 VI. *El círculo mágico: Romance del pescador* 1:53 15 VII. *A media noche: Los sortilegios* 0:34 16 VIII. *Danza ritual del fuego: para ahuyentar los malos espíritus* 3:53 17 IX. *Escena* 0:56 18 X. *Canción del fuego fatuo* 1:41 19 XI. *Pantomima* 4:12 20 XII. *Danza del juego de amor* 2:31 21 XIII. *Final. Las campanas del amanecer* 1:07  
Chicago Symphony Orchestra (1-3) RCA Victor Symphony Orchestra (4) NBC Symphony Orchestra (5-8) Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra (9-21) Fritz Reiner - conductor

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One of the legendary podium giants of the 20th century, the Hungarian-American conductor Fritz Reiner was born in Budapest in 1888 and studied at the Franz Liszt Academy, where Bartók was one of his teachers. In 1914 he was appointed principal conductor of the Dresden Opera, where he worked with Richard Strauss, of whose music he would become a supreme interpreter. In 1922 he succeeded Eugène Ysaÿe as conductor of the Symphony Orchestra in Cincinnati, from where, in 1931, he went to the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia (where one of his conducting students was the young Leonard Bernstein). From 1938 to 1948, Reiner was music director of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, and in 1953 he succeeded Rafael Kubelik in Chicago, where, over the next ten years, he made a series of recordings with the orchestra that have remained benchmarks to this day. He died in New York in 1963, aged 74.

Reiner became an American citizen in 1928, during his period as conductor of the Cincinnati Symphony. After his period on the faculty of the Curtis Institute, he moved in 1938 to Pittsburgh, rebuilding the orchestra into a first-rate ensemble, as can be heard here in a new transfer from the original metal parts of the 1946 recording of Falla's *El amor brujo*. After Pittsburgh, Reiner was active particularly as a guest conductor with orchestras in Philadelphia and New York and at the Metropolitan Opera. These years are represented in this compilation by recordings, new to CD, of Mendelssohn, Richard Strauss and Ravel. But the period for which Reiner will be particularly remembered is the ten years he spent as music director of the Chicago Symphony, heard here in rare recordings of the core repertoire (Beethoven, Brahms, Mozart and Wagner) in which Reiner excelled, and of Béla Bartók, the conductor's former teacher and a composer whose work he championed (not least by making the first commercial recording of Bartók's *Concerto for Orchestra*). --- bayreuthclassical.blogspot.com

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