

Paul van Kempen conducts Beethoven

Paul van Kempen (16 May 1893 – 8 December 1955) was a Dutch conductor.

Van Kempen was born in Zoeterwoude, Netherlands, and later studied at the Amsterdam conservatory from 1910 to 1913, including composition and conducting with Julius Roentgen and Bernard Zwercs, as well as violin with Louis Zimmermann. From 1913, he was a second violinist with the Concertgebouw Orchestra, and one year later, was in the first violin section. After 1916, he began to make his career more in Germany, and served as concertmaster in orchestras in Posen, Bad Nauheim und Dortmund.

In 1932, van Kempen became a German citizen. He was music director in Oberhausen for 2 years. From 1934 to 1942, he was principal conductor of the Dresden Philharmonic. In 1942, he succeeded Herbert von Karajan as *Kapellmeister* in Aachen, serving through 1944. Several years after World War II, in 1953, van Kempen became general music director of the city of Bremen.

In 1949, van Kempen returned to the Netherlands as principal conductor of the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra, based in Hilversum. However, his conducting activities during World War II made him a controversial figure in the Netherlands, such as conducting concerts for the Wehrmacht. On one occasion, in 1951, van Kempen was engaged as a substitute conductor at the Concertgebouw Orchestra in place of the ill Eduard van Beinum. During the first night, audience members protested strongly, but the concert took place. On the second night, the audience disruptions were so severe that 62 musicians left the stage and refused to continue.

Van Kempen recordings included the Beethoven Symphonies Nos. 3, 7 and 8, the five Beethoven piano concertos with Wilhelm Kempff, and the Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 6. He died in Amsterdam at age 62.

Notes from Wikipedia

Producer's Note

The sources for the transfers were postwar yellow-label DGG shellac pressings for the *Creatures of Prometheus* selections and black-label wartime Polydors for the symphonies. Despite their occasional sonic imperfections, these recordings are significant in that van Kempen did not return to these scores in the studio in the LP era. As far as I am aware, the *Prometheus* excerpts and the Second Symphony have never appeared on CD before.
Mark Ober-Thorn

FULL PROGRAMME NOTES CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM
SABU Pristine Audio, Le Bourg, 24610 St. Meard de Gurçon, France - Tel. (00) 33 853 821857
www.pristineclassical.com

VAN KEMPEN conducts

BEETHOVEN

Symphony No. 2

Symphony No. 5

Creatures of Prometheus (Excerpts)

Dresden Philharmonic Orchestra
Studio recordings, 1940-41

 bert-Thorn



Van Kempen Beethoven

BEETHOVEN *The Creatures of Prometheus*, Op. 43

- 1 Overture (5:34)
 - 2 Ballet Music No. 8 - *Allegro con brio* (7:45)
- Recorded 7 July 1941 in Dresden
 Matrix nos.: 1683 ½ GS 9, 1684 ½ GS 9, 1685 ½ GS 9 and 1686 ½ GS 9
 First issued on Polydor 57156 and 57157

BEETHOVEN *Symphony No. 2 in D major*, Op. 36

- 3 1st mvt. - *Adagio molto; Allegro con brio* (10:45)
 - 4 2nd mvt. - *Larghetto* (12:28)
 - 5 3rd mvt. - *Scherzo; Trio* (3:47)
 - 6 4th mvt. - *Allegro molto* (6:22)
- Recorded April, 1940 in Dresden
 Matrix nos.: 1308 ½ GE 9, 1311 ¼ GE 9, 1312 ½ GE 9, 1313 ½ GE 9, 1314 GE 9,
 1315 ¾ GE 9, 1316 ½ GE 9, 1317 ¼ GE 9 and 1318 ½ GE 9
 First issued on Polydor 67608 through 67612

BEETHOVEN *Symphony No. 5 in C minor*, Op. 67

- 7 1st mvt. - *Allegro con brio* (7:26)
 - 8 2nd mvt. - *Andante con moto* (10:54)
 - 9 3rd mvt. - *Allegro* (5:34)
 - 10 4th mvt. - *Allegro* (8:41)
- Recorded 7 July 1941 in Dresden
 Matrix nos.: 1509 ½ GE 9, 1510 ¼ GE 9, 1511 GE 9, 1512 GE 9, 1513 ¾ GE 9,
 1514 ½ GE 9, 1515 ¾ GE 9, 1516 ¼ GE 9 and 1517 ½ GE 9
 First issued on Polydor 67635 through 67639

Dresden Philharmonic Orchestra Paul van Kempen

Producer & Audio restoration engineer
Mark Obert-Thorn

Cover artwork based on a
 photograph of **Paul van Kempen**

Total duration: **79:16**

For a full catalogue visit
www.pristineclassical.com
 or call : (00) 33 979 622713

© 2012 **Pristine Audio**