



PRESS RELEASE

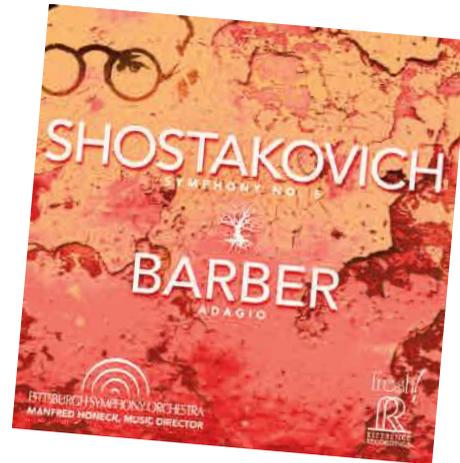
For Immediate Release

DMITRI SHOSTAKOVICH
SYMPHONY No. 5 IN D MINOR, OP. 47

SAMUEL BARBER
ADAGIO FOR STRINGS

MANFRED HONECK
PITTSBURGH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Street Date: August 18, 2017



MAJESTIC, SOLEMN MUSIC FROM THE PITTSBURGH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

SAN FRANCISCO: Reference Recordings proudly presents these two beloved works in definitive interpretations from Manfred Honeck and the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, in superb audiophile sound.

In his fascinating and scholarly music notes, Maestro Honeck gives us great insight into the history of both pieces, and describes how he conducts and interprets each. He reminds us that Joseph Stalin's Soviet government was offended by Shostakovich's previous works. Under threat of arrest or banishment to Siberia, Shostakovich devised a new, less-complex compositional style for the 5th Symphony, still full of irony and double meaning, to appease Stalin and appeal to the common people.

The Adagio of Samuel Barber is his most performed work, and one of the most popular of all 20th Century orchestral works. It is beloved for its beautiful simplicity and emotion. Manfred Honeck describes Barber's 1967 a capella version for mixed choir using the "Agnus Dei" text, and tells us his own interpretation is inspired by this text. He says it is "for me, without a doubt, the key to finding a deeper sense of this piece. Perhaps it is for this reason that the Adagio has enchanted and moved audiences around the world since its very first incarnation and has continued to do so in all subsequent versions born since."

This release is the seventh in the highly acclaimed **Pittsburgh Live!** series of multi-channel hybrid SACD releases on the **FRESH!** series from Reference Recordings. Each has received dozens of critical accolades. *Dvořák/Janaček* (FR-710SACD) and *Bruckner 4* (FR-713SACD) have each received GRAMMY® nominations for Best Orchestral Performance.

The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, known for its artistic excellence for more than 120 years, is credited with a rich history of the world's finest conductors and musicians, and a strong commitment to the Pittsburgh region and its citizens. Past music directors have included many of the greats, including Fritz Reiner (1938-1948), William Steinberg (1952-1976), Andre Previn (1976-1984), Lorin Maazel (1984-1996) and Mariss Jansons (1995-2004). This tradition of outstanding international music directors was furthered in fall 2008, when Austrian conductor Manfred Honeck became music director of the Pittsburgh Symphony.

The orchestra has been at the forefront of championing new American works, and gave the first performance of Leonard Bernstein's Symphony No. 1 "Jeremiah" in 1944, and John Adams' "Short Ride in a Fast Machine" in 1986. The Pittsburgh Symphony also has an illustrious history in the areas of recordings and radio concerts dating back to the 1930s. And, with a long and distinguished history of touring both domestically and overseas since 1900—including more than 37 international tours to Europe, the Far East and South America—the Pittsburgh Symphony continues to be critically acclaimed as one of the world's greatest orchestras.

This release and the entire **Pittsburgh Live!** series are recorded and mastered by the team at **Soundmirror**, whose outstanding orchestral, solo, opera and chamber recordings have received more than 90 Grammy nominations and awards. For over 40 years, Soundmirror has recorded for every major classical record label, including Reference Recordings.



FR-724SACD – Hybrid surround sound and stereo/ US suggested retail price \$19.98

DMITRI SHOSTAKOVICH

SYMPHONY No. 5 IN D MINOR, OP. 47

1. MODERATO-ALLEGRO NON TROPPO

2. ALLEGRETTO

3. LARGO

4. ALLEGRO NON TROPPO

SAMUEL BARBER

ADAGIO FOR STRINGS

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