



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

BEETHOVEN



SYMPHONY NO. 9



PITTSBURGH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
MANFRED HONECK, MUSIC DIRECTOR

Featuring:

CHRISTINA LANDSHAMER • JENNIFER JOHNSON CANO •
WERNER GÜRA • SHENYANG • MENDELSSOHN CHOIR OF PITTSBURGH

FR-741SACD

Street Date: February 12, 2021



CELEBRATE! A NEW BEETHOVEN 9 FROM MANFRED HONECK AND THE PITTSBURGH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

SAN FRANCISCO — Reference Recordings® proudly presents Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 in a new and definitive interpretation from Manfred Honeck and the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. We are excited that this new release is part of the Orchestra's 125th Anniversary joy! Other Orchestra events will include a weekend musical celebration and the release of a digital program on February 27, the 125th anniversary date of their very first concert.

This album was recorded in beautiful and historic Heinz Hall, home of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, in superb audiophile sound.

Maestro Honeck honors us again with his meticulous music notes, in which he gives us great insight into his unique interpretation as well as the history and musical structure of Beethoven's most famous symphony.

This release is the eleventh in the highly acclaimed *Pittsburgh Live!* series of multi-channel hybrid SACD releases on the *FRESH!* imprint from Reference Recordings. This series has received GRAMMY® Nominations in 2015, 2016, 2018, 2019 and 2020. Its recording of Shostakovich's Symphony No. 5 / *Barber Adagio for Strings* won the 2018 GRAMMY® Awards for *Best Orchestral Performance* and *Best Engineered Classical Album*.

The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, always dedicated to artistic excellence, has a rich history of the world's finest conductors and musicians. Past music directors have included many of the greats, including Fritz Reiner, William Steinberg, Andre Previn, Lorin Maazel and Mariss Jansons. 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 Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra has always been at the forefront of championing new works, including recent commissions by Mason Bates, Jonathan Leshnoff, James MacMillan and Julia Wolfe. The Pittsburgh Symphony has a long and illustrious history in the areas of recordings and live radio broadcasts dating back to the 1930s. And, with a distinguished history of touring both domestically and overseas since 1900—including more than 37 international tours—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 130 GRAMMY® nominations and awards. For over 40 years, Soundmirror has recorded for every major classical record label, including Reference Recordings.

Reference Recordings was founded in 1976 in San Francisco. The label has multiple GRAMMY® awards and a catalog that includes numerous American and international orchestras, ensembles and choruses. *FRESH!* is part of Reference Recordings' mission to encourage unique and fine artists, and give them a strong platform for promotion and sales nationally and internationally. Reference Recordings are distributed in North America by Naxos USA, and internationally through a network of independent distributors listed at: www.ReferenceRecordings.com

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HYBRID

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BEETHOVEN

SYMPHONY NO. 9



- I. Allegro ma non troppo, un poco maestoso 14:32
II. Molto vivace 13:12
III. Adagio molto e cantabile 12:34
IV. Finale 22:30

TT 62:48

Christina Landshamer, *soprano*
Jennifer Johnson Cano, *mezzo-soprano*
Werner Güra, *tenor*
Shenyang, *bass-baritone*
Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh



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MANFRED HONECK, MUSIC DIRECTOR

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