

more ringing authority than in November. I would be hard put to choose between the two London versions and the Cologne, which has the poorest sound quality.

Christopher Breunig

Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 4 in G, Op. 58.
Friedrich Wuhler (pf); **Bamberg Symphony Orchestra** / **Jonel Perlea**.

Pristine Audio mono (M) (D) PASC139 (33mins; ADD); rec. Bamberg, Germany, 12-13/9/57.

For review purposes I was supplied with a Compact Disc. Its presentation includes a biographical note on Friedrich Wuhler (1900-75) that ends with the advice that further information on this recording can be found on www.pristineclassical.com. Pristine Audio offers a download service so, given that I was sent a finished carrier, anyone preferring to request something that will also arrive through the post should check when ordering. As to this particular performance, this really is specialist territory! It's an admirable account, classical and crisp on Wuhler's part, fiery on occasions (the first-movement cadenza, for example, the more familiar of Beethoven's two), and sensitive (the calming of the weighty strings in the second movement), with bustling, energised and sympathetic support from the Bamberg Symphony under Jonel Perlea. There's warmth of expression, too, something announced in Wuhler's opening solo, and the finale is well judged, sparkling and articulate. The recorded sound, as re-mastered by Andrew Rose (from a Vox LP), is very acceptable, the textures from top to bottom being clean and faithful. The balance is expert in giving us concert hall equality between piano and orchestra. The performance as a whole is vividly communicative and spontaneous while being well prepared and finding the musicians *en rapport* and dedicated. Despite the so-many recorded versions we have of this very great work, this very recommendable one was well worth dusting off, for it proves eminently (and surprisingly?) fine. I know little of Wuhler's work, but on the evidence of this recording, he seemed to be a pianist of unobtrusive mastery warranting greater attention.

Colin Anderson