

Beethoven: Symphonies Nos 1 and 3 - Manchester Camerata, conductor Boyd



One might question why a catalogue heaving with recordings of the Beethoven symphonies needs another set from a regional, part-time chamber orchestra, but **Douglas Boyd has already demonstrated remarkable gifts as a symphonic conductor.** He was mentored in Mozart by the late Sandor Vegh, and in Beethoven by Claudio Abbado and Nikolaus Harnoncourt. **He is no slavish imitator of either, however. These are refreshingly “straight” but compelling accounts of both symphonies, scrupulously observant of Beethoven’s dynamic markings and wonderfully**

transparent in the recent Abbado manner, with woodwind solos emerging effortlessly, as if in period-band performance, from the string textures. Boyd sustains a remarkably expansive Funeral March, the emotional climax of the Eroica and the crowning achievement of this remarkable, collectable disc.

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