

IMMORTAL PERFORMANCES

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BERLIOZ: REQUIEM

France 1943

REMASTERED CD 1

Our release of this important performance had certain defects we could not remove. Chief among them was the very worn sides of *Quaerens me* (track 5). Everything we tried to reduce the unpleasant sound of its noisy surfaces killed the sound – the result was deadened, compressed sonics. So we issued it in its original state.

Two years since its release we've returned to it experiencing some disquiet over that particular section and have finally replaced it with a quieter two sides though these lack the amplitude of the noisier version. Compare your original disc at track 5 with our replacement and you'll hear why we labored to replace it despite some resultant compression.

We have also reduced some surface noise elsewhere, making the listening experience more pleasurable. Even so, because the overtones exist in the same latitude as grit we've left some of this lesser noisiness in order to preserved the lifefulness of the original.

You will have noticed a certain graininess in some of the choral passages. This stems from the course shellac Columbia used, which did not much improve on the French Columbia material on which the performance was pressed. It has to be accepted as an aural counterpart of the war restriction on materials. We used the Columbia 78s. The Columbia SL-LP duplicated their sound with a bit of microgroove compression.

If you purchased our set (IPCD 1120-3) we will replace CD 1 *gratis*. Simply request it on your next order. It will show a gold dot on the label to identify it.

The Directors