The success behind the Herbert von Karajan

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He has dedicated one third of his life for classical music production as a conductor, and he shall be considered an extraordinary musician. Herbert von Karajan is the one of most well-known conductor at all time, he is most known for those who firstly step into classical music. Without doubt, there are many reasons contributed to Karajan’s mega fame, but his strict training style and the huge amount of music published most likely be the essential attribution.

The legendary Austrian was born in the city of Salzburg, where the genius musician Mozart was also born one and half century ago. It is sufficing to say that Karajan inherited his talents from Mozart, if we look at the similarity they were both sharing. Karajan was immersed in music since he was little, “My father himself played quite passable piano in middle ago, and his great passion was the clarinet,” said Karajan about his father, and his elder brother, Karajan was stimulated to play with him, who was a very talented musician, had his first piano lesson at the age of five (Robert, 1990, p. 34).

Karajan shown his uncommon talent in music and linguistic skills, he was able to play Mozart’s piano piece in public, while he can master a language and speak it fluently such as that he learned English within three months when he was in England for vacation (Robert, 1990, p. 41). Despite that he had such talents on music, he finally chose to be a conductor, because he thought his skill on playing piano wasn’t sufficient enough for being a pianist.

The day of 22, January was a turning point for Karajan, where he got spotted by the manager of a German city theater, who then offered Karajan an opportunity to Germany. He as a conductor, led the orchestra of the Mozartrum in the Great Hall of Mozarteum, undisguised shown off his talent of conducting, Tchaikovsky’s Symphony No. 5, Mozart’s Piano Concerto in A major and also the poem *Don Juan* by Richard Strauss, surprised every single audience sat in the hall. It was the first time for Karajan to conductor an orchestra in public under thousands of eyes, when Karajan was not older than twenty-one and still as student in music college. The Austrian then went Germany, where he brought his life to the peak, and everyone had a high expectation on him.

(introduce and transit to his connection with BPO)

Probably Karajan is most recognized when we see a conductor whose lower body hardly move and maybe bolted into the floor, while hands are waving along with the rhythm, and the solemn face with both eyes shut, seems like this man has entered his own universe. (use interview to demonstrate the importance of conductor/director when doing rehearsal)

(introducing the relationship with DG company, main point: the use of technology, always follow the newest tech. the business awareness, supervise the entire record and editing processes, talk about some of the series which are highly recognized.)

The close and deep cooperation with Karajan and the Germany record company DG was also another crucial aspect for giving such fame to Karajan. He not only focused on his nature job, but also on the production of records. When a record is coincided to produce, Karajan would usually keep track on every small detail from a minor error, to the editing of the music for how to tune it in a Karajan style.

(conclusion, summarized the main point, my personal thought on him, what do I think about him, his public position etc.)

# References

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