

EXHIBITION IN THE OPERA

# HIS LIVE WAS MUSIC

100th BIRTHDAY OF FERENC FRICSAY  
1914 - 1963

THE EXPRESSIONS OF FERENC FRICSAY

YEHUDI MENUHIN ABOUT FRICSAY

DR. PALLÓ IMRE ABOUT FRICSAY

ZOLTÁN KODÁLY ABOUT FRICSAY

FISCHER-DIESKAU ABOUT FRICSAY

YOUTH 1914 - 1933

YEARS IN SZEGED 1934 - 1944

IN THE OPERA 1945 - 1949

PATH TO THE FAME 1947 - 1963

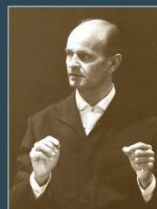
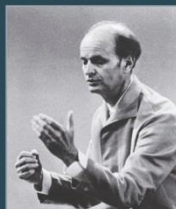
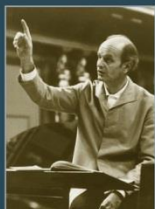
**FERENC FRICSAY 1914-1963**



# MUSIC WAS HIS LIFE

100 YEARS AGO FERENC FRICSAY WAS BORN

1914 - 1963



## HIS LIFE WAS MUSIC

(Szilveszter Ókovács)

IF THERE EXISTS A HUNGARIAN CONDUCTORS WHO DESERVES TO BE NEWLY DISCOVERED, IT WOULD BE FERENC FRICSAY, BORN 100 YEARS AGO (9TH AUGUST 1914). IN ANY CASE HE DESERVES IT. AN UNFAIR SHORT TIME HE GOT BY THE DESTINY, JUST 48 YEARS. - ONLY DURING FOUR YEARS (1945 - 1949) HE WORKED AS CONDUCTOR IN THE OPERA HOUSE AND FURTHER OF THE ORCHESTRA OF BUDAPEST. - VERY YOUNG, JUST 24 YEARS OLD, FRICSAY STARTED HIS CAREER IN SZEGED WITH THE LOCAL MILITARY ORCHESTRA AND AS HEAD OF THE PHILHARMONY, WHERE HE GATHERED 10 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE. - AFTER THE WORLD WAR II HE WAS 4 YEARS IN BUDAPEST. - 1947 HE GOT AN INVITATION TO THE FESTIVAL OF SALZBURG AND WAS APPRECIATED WORLD-WIDE BY HIS WORLD PREMIERE OF "DANTONS TOD" COMPOSED BY GOTTFRIED V. EINEM. - HIS CAREER WAS NOT TO RETARD ANYMORE: FROM 1949 HE WAS LEADER OF THE "BERLINER OPER" AND OF THE RIAS SYMPHONY ORCHRESTRA. FROM 1952 IN ADDITION HE TRAVELLED TO THE GREAT CITIES OF WESTERN EUROPE ALSO NORTH- AND SOUTH-AMERICA AS WELL AS ISRAEL.- BETWEEN 1956 AND 1958 HE CONDUCTED AS GENERAL MUSIC DIRECTOR THE OPERA OF MUNICH. AN INCURABLE ILLNES (RESULTING SOME YEARS LATER HIS EARLY DEATH) INTERRUPTED HIS CAREER.

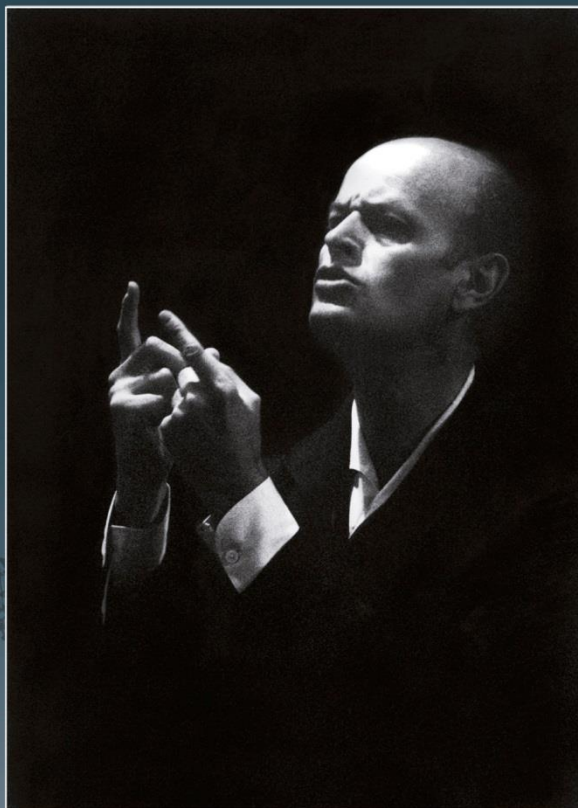
FRICSAY WAS SEPARATED FROM HIS HOMETLAND WHILE THE IRON CURTAIN MADE THE BORDER UNPASSABLE, - THE REASON THAT THE PUBLIC OF HIS NATIVE COUNTRY DOES NOT KNOW A LOT ABOUT HIM. - UNNUMERABLE RECORDINGS OF HIM EXISTS WORLD WIDE. - IT IS HIS MERIT THAT DGG HAS BECOME ONE OF THE LEADING RECORDING COMPANIES. AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR ALMOST THE ENTIRE CLASSICAL REPERTOIRE HAS BEEN REALIZED BY FRICSAY. IN REASON OF HIS CENTANARY DGG RELEASED ALL HIS ORCHESTRAL RECORDINGS IN A BOX. - THE CONDUCTOR STOOD UP FOR HIS FAVORITE TWO HUNGARIAN COMPOSERS, BÉLA BARTOK AND ZOLTÁN KODÁLY, TO MAKE THEIR COMPOSITIONS INTERNATIONALKNOWN. NOT ONLY WITH HIS OWN ORCHESTRA HAD HE PLAYED THEIR COMPOSITIONS, BUT ALMOST WITHOUT EXCEPTION BY GUEST PERFORMANCES. HE CONDUCTED "HERZOG BLAUBART'S BURG", "PSALMUS HUNGARICUS" AND IN LUZERN THE WORLD PREMIERE OF KODÁLYS SYMPHONY (THE VERY LAST COMPOSITION OF KODÁLY). EVEN HE LIVED FAR AWAY FROM HUNGARY FERENC FRICSAY WAS ALWAYS ATTEMPTED TO INTEGRATE HUNGARIAN ARTISTS IN HIS MUSICAL ENVIRONMENT FOR COOPERATION AS EXEMPLE ANNI FISCHER, GÉZA ANDA, PAULA TAKÁCS, JÓZSEF SIMÁNDY, TOMÁS VÁSÁRY AND JÁNOS KULKA. IMRE PALLÓ AND ELSA SCHILLER BELONGED TO THE CIRCLE OF HIS CLOSEST FRIENDS.

**FERENC FRICSAY 1914-1963**



musikalische Akademie e.v.  
A. Dvorak: Symbonie Nr. 5. c-moll  
Dirigent: F. Fricsay  
München 22. u. 23. 1960  
Maloney

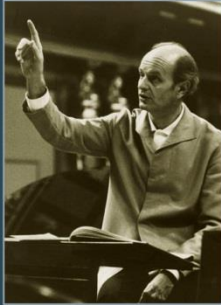
**FERENC FRICSAY 1914-1963**



musikalische Akademie e.v.  
A. Dvorak: Symbonie Nr. 5, c-moll  
Dirigent: F. Fricsay  
München 21. u. 22. 1960  
Maloney

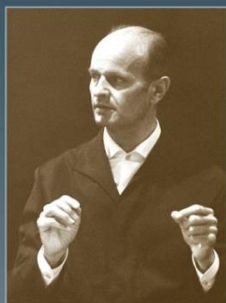
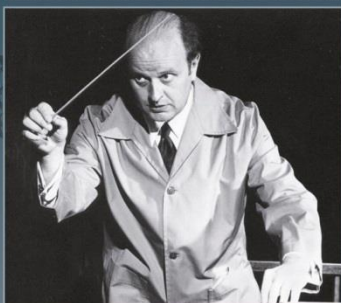
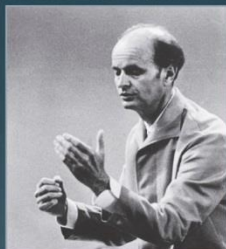
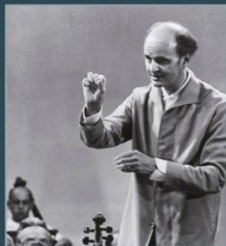
**FERENC FRICSAY 1914-1963**





Musikalischer Akademie e.v.  
A. Dvorak: Symphonie Nr. 5, e-moll  
Dirigent: F. Fricsay  
München 22. u. 23. 1960  
Maloney

FERENC FRICSAY 1914-1963



Musikalischer Akademie e.v.  
A. Dvorak: Symbonie Nr. 5. r-moll  
Dirigent: F. Fricsay  
München 22. u. 23. 1960  
Maloney

FERENC FRICSAY 1914-1963



*Ferenc Fricsay und Jehudi Menuhin in Berlin, 1961*

"I WILL NEVER FORGET MY CONCERT TOUR WITH FERENC FRICSAY AND THE RIAS ORCHESTRA. IT WAS ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS IN MY LIFE, NOT ONLY DUE TO THE MUSIC WE PLAYED DURING THE CONCERTS, BUT ALSO FOR THE UNIQUE CHANCE TO UNDERSTAND HOW HIS MUSICAL SPIRIT OF HIGHEST LEVEL WORKED ..... HIS STYLE OF CONDUCTING WAS THE MOST ELEGANT FROM THE VISUAL OBSERVATION I EVER HAVE SEEN - THE MOST ELEGANT AND EXTREMELY EXPRESSIVE, INCREDIBLY ACCURATE AND DESCRIPTIVE, WITHOUT EXAGGERATING NOR BEING UNECONOMICAL.

I AM GRATEFUL TO FERENC FRICSAY FOR THE INTERPRETATION OF BARTÓK'S "DIVERTIMENTO," WHICH WE STUDIED IN COMMON WHILE WE WERE TRAVELING BY TRAIN. EVERY SINGLE NOTE OF THE COMPOSITION TOUCHED HIS SOUL DEEPLY. I HOPE I WILL TRANSFER A LITTLE BIT OF THE TREASURE EXPRESSED IN THE NOTES, --AND WHICH WAS FAMILIAR TO FRICSAY'S SOUL."

**JEHUDI MENUHIN ABOUT FRICSAY**

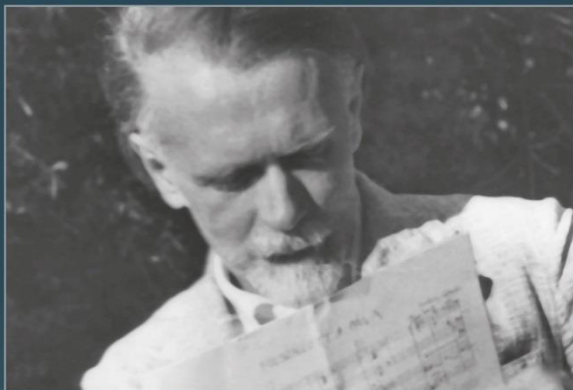




*Imre Palló and Ferenc Fricsay in Munich 1957*

"HIS FIRST OPERA PERFORMANCE AS CONDUCTOR TOOK PLACE ON APRIL 4th 1940. ON APRIL 3RD WE, THREE OPERA SINGERS ARRIVED FROM BUDAPEST AND HAD JUST ONE CAST IN THE ENSEMBLE. TEIL. - I CONFESS: DURING THE TIME OF THE MAKE UP AS RIGOLETTO I HAD GREAT DOUBTS, BECAUSE FRICSAY, EVEN BEING AN APPROVED CONDUCTOR, BUT HAD NOT EVEN A MINIMUM OF PRACTICE IN THEATER. AND NOW HE DARED TO TRY THE "RIGOLETTO" OPERA...- SOME MOMENTS BEFORE MY SINGING PERFORMANCE I STOOD AT THE BORDER OF THE STAGE TO GET AN IMPRESSION WHAT I HAD TO EXPECT ... THE GREAT APPLAUSE GAVE ME AN ANSWER AND I WENT ON STAGE FULL OF CALM: WHAT A SURPRISE! THIS RIGOLETTO-PERFORMANCE WAS NOT CONDUCTED BY A BEGINNER, BUT BY AN OPERA CONDUCTOR, MATURE AND WITH UNIQUE LEADERSHIP. - DURING THE WHOLE PERFORMANCE THERE WAS NOT EVEN THE SMALLEST DIFFERENCE NEITHER IN THE TEMPO NOR DYNAMICS.. - IT SEEMED TO ME AS IF I HAD SUNG "RIGOLETTO" SINCE YEARS WITH FRICSAY. I EVEN HAD THE FEELING THAT I NEVER HAD SUNG AS WELL BEFORE. - THIS PERFORMANCE PROVED THAT MY FRIEND FERI WAS NOT ONLY GREAT IN CONCERTS BUT ALSO A MASTER AS OPERA CONDUCTOR. FRICSAY LOVED THE STAGE AND DOMINATED AS CONDUCTOR. - I HUGGED HIM AFTER THE PERFORMANCE, BECAUSE I FELT THAT EVENING WE EXPERIENCED THE DEBUT OF A CONDUCTOR WITH GREAT FUTURE."

**DR. IMRE PALLÓ ABOUT FRICSAY**



*Ferenc Fricsay, Silvia Fricsay-Göhner, Zoltán Kodály, Sarolta Kodály-Péczel  
1961 in Luzern*

DURING HIS WHOLE LIFE FRICSAY DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS MY SPIRITUAL PUPIL, ALTHOUGH AT THE EXAM OF ADMISSION HIS FATHER ASKED HIS OLD FRIEND SIKLÓS TO BE THE TEACHER OF FERENC. DURING HIS DUTY AS CONDUCTOR OUR RELATIONSHIP GOT CLOSER AND CLOSER. - WE ADMIRE HIS PERSISTING ENDURANCE TO ESTABLISH IN SZEGED (PROVINCIAL TOWN) AN UNDREAMED EVOLUTION OF THE ORCHESTRA, IN ADDITION CONJURED YOUNG WIND ARTISTS "OUT OF NOWHERE". IN PARTICULAR HE GAVE NEW VALADITY TO ITALIAN MASTERPIECES IN THE OPERA OF BUDAPEST. -

DECELERATED BY CHAOS OF WAR, - HIS CAREER BEGAN ONLY AFTER 1945, BY FINDING FINALLY AN ENVIRONMENT IN ACCORDANCE TO HIS TALENT. - IT WAS GRANTED TO MY GREATEST DELIGHT TO EXPERIENCE IN LUZERN THE WORLD PREMIERE OF MY SYMPHONY CONDUCTED BY FRICSAY. - ON THAT OCCASION I COULD ADMIRE THE VITALITY IN HIS INTIRE MUSICAL CAPACITY BASED ON HIS AWARENESS. - TO THE EXTENT DESTINY WAS GRACIOUS TO HIM THAT HIS DEATH SWEEPED HIM AWAY ON THE VERY SUMMIT. - HOWEVER IT WAS CRUEL TO DEPRIVE HIM AND US TO HARVEST THE RIPE FRUITS OF HIS PROSPECTIVE WORK.

**ZOLTÁN KODÁLY ABOUT FRICSAY**



*Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau and Ferenc Fricsay at the "Don Giovanni" Premiere, Berlin 1961*

"THE OPENING OF THE NEW BUILT OPERA OF BERLIN IN AUTUMN 1961 BECAME HIS FAREWELL. WHEN HE APPEARED FOR THE FIRST REHEARSALS, BEING SHOCKING PALE AND SLIM, THERE WAS NO DOUBT: - HIS OLD GLOWING PASSION AND LOVE HE WANTED TO PERFORM HAD BECOME RATHER MORE INTENSE. -

DON GIOVANNI, A CHARACTER WHO ALLOWS PRETTY DIFFERENT CONCEPTS AND IN INTERPRATION EXPERIENCING A CERTAIN METAMORPHOSE, HAD TO BE DISCUSSED. DIRECTOR AND CONDUCTOR HAD, AS OFTEN HAPPENS, DIFFERENT OPINIONS.

THE THORNY WAY TO CLAIM MY CHARACTER, WITHOUT FRACTURING THE ENSEMBLE, I KEPT THE FOCUS ON FRICSAYS MUSICAL INTERPRETATION. MOZART EXPRESSED WITH THE PERSON OF DON GIOVANNI: RETAINED HEAT, RISING INCREASE UP TO DISPERATION, ESCAPE OF HIMSELF AND FINALLY TO HOLD ON TO HIS OWN PERSONALITY. THESE ARE ALL CHARACTERISTICS OF FRICSAYS CLEAR INTERPRETATION.

TO HAVE MET AND ACCOMPANIED THIS BRILLIANT CONDUCTOR IS A REAL PRESENT WHICH CAN BE RECEIVED ONLY WITH GRATITUDE."

**FISCHER-DIESKAU ABOUT FRICSAY**

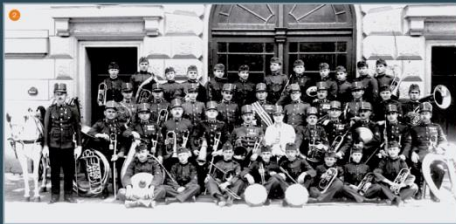


1 FERENC FRICSAY 3 YEARS OLD 1917  
 2 WITH HIS PARENTS, GRANDFATHER AND SISTER MARIA 1918  
 3 WITH HIS MOTHER IN THE NAP STREET, BUDAPEST 1918  
 4 RICHARD FRICSAY WITH HIS ORCHESTRA IN THE STUDIO 1933  
 5 WITH HIS FATHER THE CONDUCTOR RICHARD FRICSAY, 1934

6 GRADUATION CEREMONY AT THE MUSIC ACADEMY 1933  
 7 THE YOUNG CONDUCTOR WITH HIS FATHER 1933  
 8 BOOK OF COMPOSITIONS WHILST HIS YOUTH 1930  
 9 MUSICAL ARRANGEMENTS DURING HIS EARLY DAYS 1930  
 10 FERENC FRICSAY IN 1928

## YOUTH 1914 - 1963





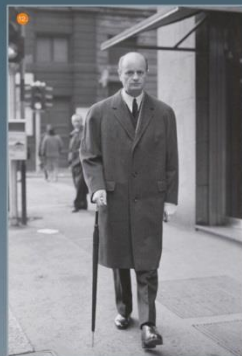
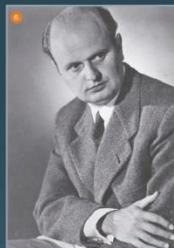
AS CONDUCTOR OF THE MILITARY ORCHESTRA IN SZEGED 1937  
 FRICSAY TOGETHER WITH HIS ORCHESTRA IN SZEGED 1935  
 OPEN AIR CONCERT IN SZEGED - CONDUCTED BY FRICSAY 1936  
 OPEN AIR CONCERT IN SZEGED - CONDUCTED BY FRICSAY 1941  
 THE YOUNG MILITARY BAND LEADER 1933  
 THE ENSEMBLE OF THE "TRAGEDY OF MANKIND" 1937

1 7 FERENC FRICSAY CONDUCTING 1939  
 2 8 REHEARSAL FOR AN OPEN AIR CONCERT IN SZEGED 1938  
 3 9 WITH BALERINAS ON THE OPEN AIR STAGE 1937  
 4 10 WORLD PREMIERE OF FRICSAYS C-DUR MASS 1936  
 5 11 AFTER THE CONCERT WITH ANNA GYENGE 1937  
 6 12 CONCERT PROGRAMM OF THE SZEGED PHILHARMONY 1936

# YEARS IN SZEGED 1934 - 1944







FIRST SUCCESS ABROAD: "DANTONS TOD", SALZBURG 1947  
 BREAK DURING A REHEARSAL WITH H.V. KARAJAN, SALZBURG 1947  
 AFTER THE AIDA-PERFORMANCE AT THE "THEATER AN DER WIEN" 1948  
 WITH HIS SECOND WIFE SILVIA AND HIS CHILDREN 1953  
 STANDING IN FRONT OF THE POSTER IN HOUSTO 1954  
 FERENC FRICSAY IN BERLIN 1953  
 WITH HIS SECOND WIFE SILVIA IN HAMBURG 1954

CONCERTS WITH THE RIAS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA 1949  
 OPENING OF THE CUVILLIÉS THEATER, MUNICH 1958  
 FRICSAY CONDUCTING A CONCERT IN MUNICH 1960  
 REHEARSAL WITH THE PIANIST GÉZA ANDA 1961  
 FERENC FRICSAY IN MILANO 1969  
 IN THE GARDEN OF ERMATINGEN WITH JÓZSEF SIMÁNDY 1962  
 FRICSAYS FUNERAL IN ERMATINGEN 1963

## PATH TO THE FAME 1947 - 1963



ON BEHALF OF SZILVESZTER ÓKOVÁCS  
(GENERAL MANAGER OF THE OPERA)  
NORA WELLMANN  
ORGANIZED AND ARRANGED  
THE EXIBITION WITH GREAT EFFORT  
AND A LOT OF SENSIVITY



FERENC FRICSAY 1914-1963