

FAURÉ

CHAMBER Music, VOLUME 1

Quartet No. 1 for Piano and Strings in C minor, Op. 15

- 1 1st mvt. - Allegro molto moderato (8:39)
- 2 2nd mvt. - Scherzo (5:24)
- 3 3rd mvt. - Adagio (6:50)
- 4 4th mvt. - Allegro molto (7:28)

Gaby Casadesus, piano

Members of the Guilet Quartet: Daniel Guilet, violin; William Schoen, viola; David Soyser, cello

Sonata No. 2 for Cello and Piano in G minor, Op. 117

- 3 1st mvt. - Allegro (5:18)
- 6 2nd mvt. - Andante (7:21)
- 7 3rd mvt. - Allegro vivo (4:23)

David Soyser, cello; Leopold Mittenmann, piano

Recorded late 1951, (c) early 1952 by Polydisc
First issued, 1952, in USA on Polydisc 1007
First issued, 1953, in UK by Nixa Record Company Ltd on QLP 4007
Producer and Audio Restoration Engineer: Peter Harrison, *disk2disc*
Additional XR remastering by Andrew Rose, Pristine Audio
Cover artwork based on a photograph of Gabriel Fauré

Total duration: 45:23 ©2008 Pristine Audio.

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CHAMBER MUSIC, VOLUME 1

PIANO QUARTET NO. 1 IN C MINOR - CELLO SONATA NO. 2 IN G MINOR

Gaby Casadesus (August 9, 1901 - November 12, 1999) was a French classical pianist and teacher born in Marseilles, France. She was married to the famous French pianist Robert Casadesus, and their son Jean Casadesus was also a notable pianist.

Born Gaby l'Hôte, she studied at the Paris Conservatoire with Louis Diémer and Marguerite Long and was awarded the first prize in piano at the age of 16. She met Debussy at this time, as he was the judge for one of her competitions. She was briefly friendly with Debussy's daughter Claude-Emma, who sadly died soon after, of diphtheria. Gaby later won the Prix Pagès, which was the most prestigious award in France at the time for which women were eligible.

In 1921 she married the pianist Robert Casadesus, with whom she founded the Robert and Gaby Casadesus duo. The duo made many recordings of the four-hand piano repertoire.

However, Gaby was also a significant soloist. She knew Ravel, Fauré, Florent Schmitt and Moritz Moszkowski, and her interpretations were indebted to their guidance. Her repertoire also included Mendelssohn, whose music she effectively championed, and the keyboard composers of the Baroque era.

As a teacher, Gaby Casadesus taught in the US, at the Salzburg Mozarteum, at the Académie Maurice Ravel in Saint-Jean de Luz and at the American Conservatoire at Fontainebleau.

Together with Grant Johannesen and Odette Valabrégue Wurtzbarger, Gaby Casadesus co-founded the Robert Casadesus International Piano Competition, which is based in Cleveland, Ohio.

Notes on the restoration: In Summer, 1953, the Nixa Record Company issued two LPs of Fauré's chamber music and this re-release has been sourced from an original pressing of one of those two discs (the other is intended for next month's release).

Copies of the discs are rare, so the restorer has to work from what he has. Like many such LPs, the pressing quality is indifferent and the disc itself badly worn in places (by the 8 gram 'lightweight' pickups of the time!) and with a huge amount of clicking and swishing which needed considerable work to minimise.

Some residue may still be heard on critical listening; but I think that the artistic performances justify the re-release and I'd urge anyone who isn't familiar with these musical by-ways to give them a try: they're pieces that are well worth getting to know. - *PMH*

NOTES FROM WIKIPEDIA - FULL NOTES ON THIS RECORDING CAN BE FOUND AT WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM