

Albert Spalding • Ernő Dohnányi Brahms Violin Sonatas

Albert Spalding (August 15, 1888 - May 26, 1953) was born in Chicago, Illinois, in 1888. His mother, Marie Brachman, was a contralto and pianist. His father, James Walter Spalding, and uncle, Hall-of-Fame baseball pitcher Albert Spalding, created the A.G. Spalding sporting goods company. Spalding studied the violin privately in New York City and Florence, and at the conservatories in Paris and Bologna; the latter graduated him with honors when he was fourteen. Following his debut in Paris on June 6, 1906, he appeared successfully in London and Vienna. His first American appearance as soloist came with the New York Symphony on November 8, 1908. A year later he soloed with the Dresden Philharmonic Orchestra when that orchestra toured the United States. In 1916, he was recognized as a national honorary member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, the national fraternity for men in music. During World War I, Spalding served in the U.S. Army Air Corps and would eventually be awarded the Cross of the Crown of Italy. Not long after his return to the United States, he married Mary Vanderhoef Pye on July 15, 1919, in Ridgefield, Connecticut. French violinist Jacques Thibaud and Andre Benoit, Spalding's accompanist, provided the music for the ceremony. In 1920, Spalding appeared on the European tour of the New York Symphony. In 1922, he became the first American violinist to appear with the Paris Conservatory Orchestra; a year later he was the first American to serve on a jury at the Paris Conservatory, helping to award prizes to the graduating class of violinists. In February 1941, he premiered the violin concerto of Samuel Barber. Following a concert in New York on May 26, 1950, Spalding announced his retirement from the concert stage. Thereafter, he taught master classes at Boston University College of Music and, in winter months, at Florida State University in Tallahassee. He died in New York in 1953, at the age of 64.

Notes from Wikipedia - more on our website

Producer's note

These legendary recordings, featuring America's greatest native-born violinist and the famous Hungarian composer/conductor/pianist, have not been generally available since the demise of the Remington label over half a century ago. Multiple copies of each of the two LPs containing the sonatas were assembled for transfer. The First Sonata came from one of Remington's later, black-and-gold label vinyl pressings, featuring quieter surfaces than the original, red label issues, which seemed to have been pressed on a noisier hard plastic-like material. (The odd noise during the slow movement appears to be the banging of a radiator in the studio. There is also a momentary pitch fluctuation in the original master during this movement.)

Although I had two copies of the disc with the Second and Third Sonatas available on the later pressings, I found that both had a noticeable pitch wobble, even when the discs were perfectly centered. This was probably due to either the master tape or the disc cutting table running at an uneven speed. Since the red label pressings did not exhibit this flaw, they were used for those works, despite their greater surface imperfections.

Mark Obert-Thorn

FULL PROGRAMME NOTES CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM

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BRAHMS
The Three
Sonatas for
Violin and Piano

**Albert
Spalding**
Violin

**Ernő
Dohnányi**
Piano

Studio Recordings
1951

Obert-Thorn

Brahms Sonatas for Violin and Piano

BRAHMS Violin Sonata No. 1 in G major, Op. 78

- 1 1st mvt. - Vivace ma non troppo (9:51)
- 2 2nd mvt. - Adagio (8:15)
- 3 3rd mvt. - Allegro molto moderato (8:25)

Recorded in 1951 in New York City
First issued on Remington R-199-84

BRAHMS Violin Sonata No. 2 in A major, Op. 100

- 4 1st mvt. - Allegro amabile (7:55)
- 5 2nd mvt. - Andante tranquillo (6:04)
- 6 3rd mvt. - Allegro grazioso (quasi Andante) (5:42)

Recorded in 1951 in New York City
First issued on Remington R-199-49

BRAHMS Violin Sonata No. 3 in D minor, Op. 108

- 7 1st mvt. - Allegro (7:38)
- 8 2nd mvt. - Adagio (4:43)
- 9 3rd mvt. - Un poco presto e con sentimento (3:01)
- 10 4th mvt. - Presto agitato (5:47)

Recorded in 1951 in New York City
First issued on Remington R-199-49

Albert Spalding violin
Ernö Dohnányi piano

Producer and Audio Restoration
Engineer **Mark Obert-Thorn**

Additional processing for Ambient Stereo
issue versions only by **Andrew Rose**

Cover artwork based on a photograph of
Albert Spalding

Special thanks to **Frank Forman,**
Richard A. Kaplan, Donald Manildi
and the **International Piano Archives at**
the University of Maryland (IPAM) for
providing source material

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