

COMPACT
disc
DIGITAL AUDIO
PACM 101

W. H. SQUIRE

Chamber Music

PRISTINE
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Producer's Note

During a recording career that stretched from the late 1890s to the early 1930s, British cellist William Henry Squire (1871-1963) set down many sides of short encore pieces and two cello concertos (the latter featured on Pristine's earlier release devoted to Squire, *PASC 393*). Although he, along with violinist Arthur Catterall and pianist William Murdoch, made a series of acoustic recordings of movements from chamber works usually abridged to a single side, Squire only participated in three complete chamber music recordings: Beethoven's "Archduke" Trio (on Pristine *PACM 073*), and the two A minor trios presented here.

It is remarkable that at a time during the acoustic recording era when few chamber works were available complete on disc, Columbia would have chosen to record Brahms' less well-known Clarinet Trio. The clarinetist is Haydn Paul Draper, nephew and pupil of the more well-known Charles Draper (who also recorded chamber music for Columbia around the same time). Hamilton Harty (not yet "Sir" — his knighthood would come the following year) is the pianist, as he was on many of Squire's solo discs in the acoustic era. Brahms had declared his composing days at an end with his G major String Quintet in 1890; but hearing clarinetist Richard Mühlfeld inspired him to write this trio the following year, along with his Op. 115 Clarinet Quintet.

Tchaikovsky was initially reluctant to write a traditional piano trio, feeling that the sound of the piano did not mesh well with the violin and cello. However, the death of his close friend, the pianist/composer/conductor Nikolai Rubinstein in 1881 prompted his Op. 50, his only work with this combination of instruments. Squire here is joined by British violinist Arthur Catterall and Australian pianist William Murdoch, frequent chamber partners of his both in concert and on disc. The recording is not quite complete; the Finale section of the second movement was cut to about half its length, probably to avoid going to an additional odd side. Based on the ample reverberation to be heard, the session may have been held in Wigmore Hall, as was the Beethoven "Archduke" with Sammons, Squire and Murdoch from a few days earlier. However, the original engineering here seems to be more distant and recorded at a lower level.

Concluding our program are four cello encores of the type for which Squire was most famous on disc. Squire's frequent collaborator as conductor and accompanist, Harty, is heard here as a composer. French organist and composer Jean Huré (1877-1930) wrote his "Air" to be accompanied by either piano or organ, and Squire recorded it both ways, the first acoustically and the second, heard here, electrically.

The sources for the transfers were mainly American Columbia discs — a "New Process" set for the Brahms, and "Viva-Tonal" pressings for the Tchaikovsky, Harty and Huré works. The Dvůřák and Dunkler pieces came from an Australian Columbia disc.

Mark Obert-Thorn

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brahms
clarinet trio in a minor

tchaikovsky
piano trio in a minor

with encores by
dvorák, harty, huré, dunkler

columbia studio recordings
1924-1928

Obert-Thorn



BRAHMS Clarinet Trio in A minor, Op. 114 (acoustic recording)

- 1 1st Mvt. - Allegro (7:40)
- 2 2nd Mvt. - Adagio (7:44)
- 3 3rd Mvt. - Andante grazioso (4:32)
- 4 4th Mvt. - Allegro (4:13)

H. P. Draper (clarinet) · **Hamilton Harty** (piano)
Recorded 21 October 1924 in London

TCHAIKOVSKY Piano Trio in A minor, Op. 150, "To the memory of a great artist"

- 5 1st Mvt. - Pezzo elegiaco (Moderato assai) (16:40)
- 6 2nd Mvt. - Tema con variazioni: Tema (Andante con moto) (0:54)
- 7 Variation I (0:52)
- 8 Variation II (Più mosso) (0:37)
- 9 Variation III (Allegro moderato) (0:48)
- 10 Variation IV (0:59)
- 11 Variation V (0:36)
- 12 Variation VI (Tempo di valse) (2:19)
- 13 Variation VII (Allegro moderato) (1:01)
- 14 Variation VIII (Fuga: Allegro moderato) (2:23)
- 15 Variation IX (Andante flebile ma non tanto) (2:51)
- 16 Variation X (Tempo di mazurka) (1:24)
- 17 Variation XI (Moderato) (1:48)
- 18 Finale (Allegro risoluto e con fuoco) (3:24)
- 19 Coda (Andante con moto) (3:30)

Arthur Catterall (violin) · **William Murdoch** (piano)
Recorded 23 December 1926 in London

- 20 DVORÁK (arr. Grünfeld) - Songs my mother taught me** (2:51)
Recorded March, 1928 in London. Matrix no.: WA 7085. First issued on Columbia D 1620

- [21] HARTY - Scherzo (3:54)**
Recorded 13 April 1927 in London. Matrix no.: WAX 2571-2. First issued on Columbia L 2115

- 22 HURÉ - Air** (3:53)
Recorded 3 October 1928 in the St. John's Wood Synagogue.
Matrix no.: WAX 4128-1. Issued on American Columbia 50214-D
George Thomas Pattman (organ)

- 23 DUNKLER - La fileuse (The spinning wheel) (2:31)**
Recorded March, 1928 in London. Matrix no.: WA 7088. Issued on Australian Columbia 03611



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

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Cover artwork based on a photograph of
W. H. Squire

Brahms Clarinet Trio
Matrix nos.: AX 692-1, 693-2, 694-1,
695-1, 696-1 & 697-1
First issued on Columbia L 1609/11

Tchaikovsky Piano Trio
Matrix nos.: WRAX 2311-2, 2312-2, 2313-
1, 2314-2, 2315-2, 2316-2, 2317-1, 2318-
1, 2319-1, 2320-2, 2321-3, 2322-1
First issued on Columbia L 1942/7

Tracks 20, 21 and 23 with piano accompaniment, uncredited

Total duration: 77:24

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