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ANIA DORFMANN
Grieg · Mendelssohn · Schumann

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Producer's Note

It is unfortunate that Ania Dorfmann is remembered today almost exclusively for being the soloist in Arturo Toscanini's only studio recording of a Beethoven piano concerto. Her career extended far beyond the Maestro's orbit, as the present reissue demonstrates.

Dorfmann was born in Odessa in 1899 to a merchant's family. Recognized early on as a prodigy, she played her first recital at the age of eleven. Around this time, she also gave a joint concert with the even-younger Jascha Heifetz. Plans were made for her to go to Paris to study with Isidor Phillip at the Conservatoire, but the death of her father postponed the trip for several years. She had been in Paris for less than a year when revolution broke out in Russia. After a visit home, she was only able to return to France with some difficulty.

She made her début at Liège in 1920, and concertized throughout Europe over the next fifteen years, appearing with such conductors as Mengelberg, Beecham and Wood. During this period, she made a number of recordings for English Columbia, including the Mendelssohn First Piano Concerto with Walter Goehr.

In 1936, she made her American debut at Town Hall in New York, where critics praised the "rapidity and clarity" of her technique. Horowitz introduced her to his father-in-law, Toscanini, and she soon became an intimate of the family. (A letter written by Toscanini in Milan in April, 1937 mentions "Ania, that friend of Volodya's (she's a Russian pianist). She's here all the time, morning and evening.") She was later to collaborate with the conductor on four occasions, all in works of Beethoven: the Choral Fantasy (1939); the Triple Concerto (1942); a broadcast of the First Piano Concerto with the Reineke cadenza (1944) followed by a studio recording of the work with one of Beethoven's own cadenzas (1945). All of these have been available on CD.

Dorfmann settled in America and joined the faculty at the Juilliard School. She continued to concertize and made a number of recordings for RCA Victor during the 1940s and '50s, including the Beethoven "Moonlight" and "Pathétique" Sonatas, the complete Mendelssohn *Songs Without Words*, the complete Chopin Waltzes, the *Albums for the Young* of both Schumann and Tchaikovsky, and a recital disc featuring works by Liszt, Ravel and Menotti among others. While her English Columbia 78s have been well covered in CDs from Pearl and Dutton, her RCA recordings have remained largely unreissued.

The two concertos on the present reissue feature The Philadelphia Orchestra in its summer guise, and were in fact the last recordings made under the "Robin Hood Dell" name. Like her Beethoven and Chopin LPs, they were originally released on RCA's budget Bluebird label, but were promoted to full-price Red Seal shortly thereafter (LM-2102). The *Carnaval* comes from her last (and only stereo) recording, an all-Schumann program which also included his *Fantasiestücke*.

Dorfmann continued to teach until a year before her death in 1984, having retired from the concert stage several years earlier. Now, with the reissue of her later recordings such as the ones presented here, a fuller appreciation of her considerable artistry becomes possible.

Mark Obert-Thorn

Ania Dorfmann

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GRIEG
Piano Concerto

MENDELSSOHN
Piano Concerto No. 1

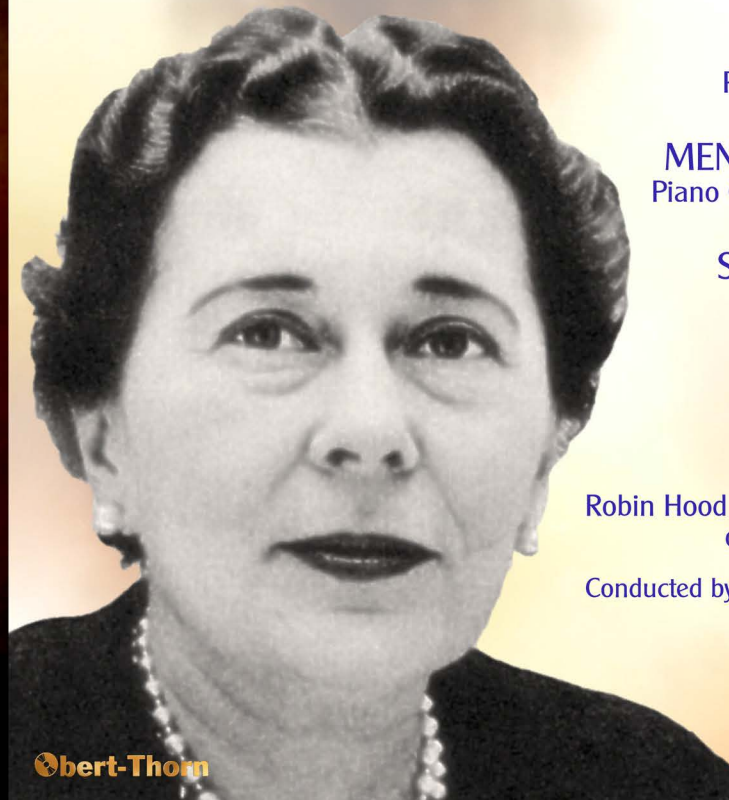
SCHUMANN
Carnaval

Robin Hood Dell Orchestra
of Philadelphia

Conducted by Erich Leinsdorf

RCA Victor
Studio recordings
1953 - 1959

Obert-Thorn



GRIEG Piano Concerto in A minor, Op. 16

- 1 1st Mvt. - Allegro molto moderato (11:51)
- 2 2nd Mvt. - Adagio (5:52)
- 3 3rd Mvt. - Allegro moderato molto e marcato (9:53)

MENDELSSOHN Piano Concerto No. 1 in G minor, Op. 25

- 4 1st Mvt. - Molto allegro con fuoco (7:18)
- 5 2nd Mvt. - Andante (5:25)
- 6 3rd Mvt. - Presto - Molto allegro e vivace (6:23)

Robin Hood Dell Orchestra of Philadelphia

Erich Leinsdorf *conductor*

SCHUMANN Carnaval, Op. 9 [Stereo recording]

- 7 Pr  ambule (2:32)
- 8 Pierrot (1:08)
- 9 Arlequin (1:08)
- 10 Valse noble (1:21)
- 11 Eusebius (1:45)
- 12 Florestan (0:53)
- 13 Coquette (1:07)
- 14 R  plique (0:50)
- 15 Papillons (0:46)
- 16 A.S.C.H. - S.C.H.A. (Lettres dansantes) (0:44)
- 17 Chiarina (1:03)
- 18 Chopin (1:44)
- 19 Estrella (0:25)
- 20 Reconnaissance (1:37)
- 21 Pantalon et Colombine (1:01)
- 22 Valse allemande (0:53)
- 23 Paganini: Intermezzo (1:23)
- 24 Aveu (1:04)
- 25 Promenade (2:01)
- 26 Pause (0:20)
- 27 Marche des Davidsb  ndler contre les Philistins (3:59)

Ania Dorfmann *piano*

Producer and Audio Restoration
Engineer: Mark Obert-Thorn

Pre-echo removal (Schumann):
Andrew Rose

Cover artwork based on a
photograph of Ania Dorfmann

Grieg Piano Concerto
Recorded 8 July 1953 in the
Academy of Music, Philadelphia
First issued on RCA Bluebird LBC-1043

Mendelssohn Piano Concerto
Recorded 7 July 1953 in the
Academy of Music, Philadelphia
First issued on RCA Bluebird LBC-1043

Schumann Carnaval
Recorded 18 & 28 - 29 September and
1 - 3 & 8 October 1958 & 14 September
1959 in Town Hall, New York City
First issued on RCA Victor LSC-2207

Total duration: 74:26

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