

KODÁLY: HÁRY JÁNOS SUITE
BARTÓK: DIVERTIMENTO FOR STRINGS
MINNEAPOLIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
CONDUCTED BY ANTAL DORÁTI



Kodály: Hary Janos Suite

1. Prelude (3:29)
2. Viennese Musical Clock (2:13)
3. Song (4:48)
4. Battle and Defeat of Napoleon (3:29)
5. Intermezzo (4:46)
6. Entrance of the Emperor and his Court (3:16)

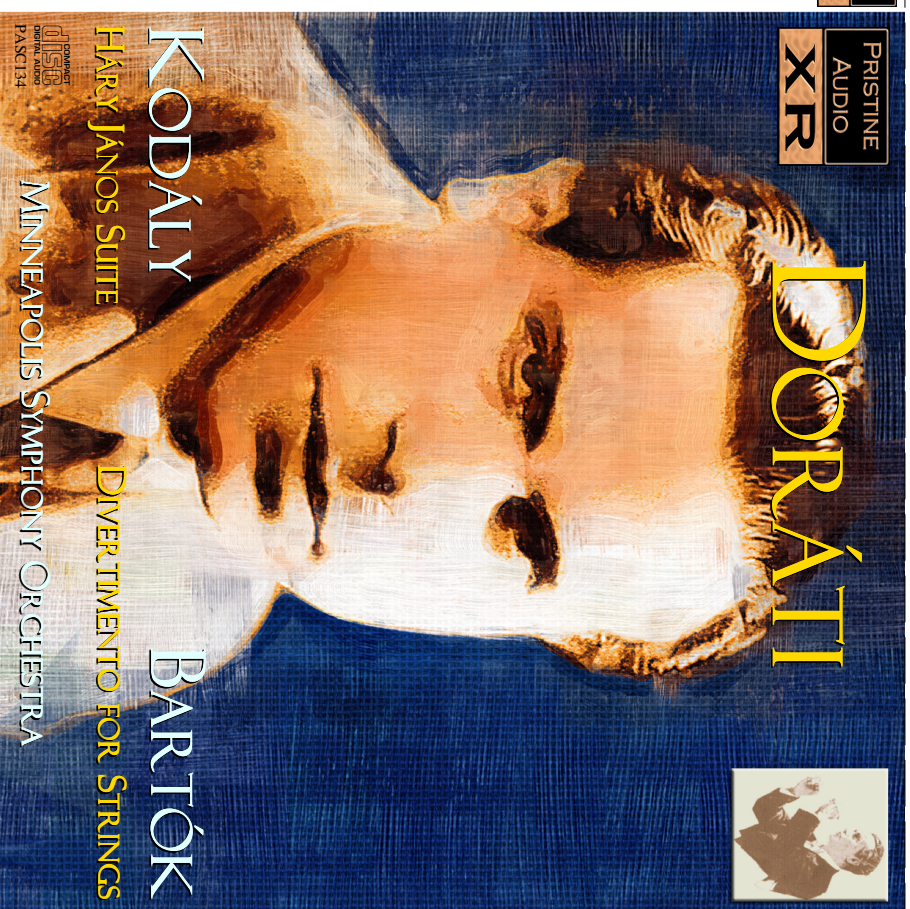
Bartók: Divertimento for String Orchestra

7. 1st mvt. - Allegro non troppo (9:02)
8. 2nd mvt. - Molto adagio (9:12)
9. 3rd mvt. - Allegro assai (7:43)

Recorded 19th April 1950, issued as RCA Victor LP LM 1750
Transferred from the archives of The Antal Doráti Centenary Society
Restoration and XR remastering by Andrew Rose at Pristine Audio, November 2008
Cover artwork based on a photograph of Antal Doráti

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Kodály: Háry János Suite

Háry János is a "Hungarian folk opera" (that is, a spoken play with songs, in the manner of a Singspiel) in four acts by Zoltán Kodály to a Hungarian libretto by Béla Paulini and Zsolt Harsányi, based on the comic epic The Veteran (Az obsitos) by János Garay. First performance: Royal Hungarian Opera House, Budapest, 1926.

The story is of a veteran hussar in the Austrian army in the first half of the 19th century who sits in the village inn regaling his listeners with fantastic tales of heroism: his supposed exploits include winning the heart of the Empress Marie Louise, the wife of Napoleon, and then single-handedly defeating Napoleon and his armies. Nevertheless, he finally renounces all riches in order to go back to his village with his sweetheart.

From the music of the opera, Kodály extracted the orchestral Háry János Suite, one of the most popular pieces in the classical repertoire. This notably includes the cimbalom, a traditional Hungarian variant of the hammer dulcimer.

Both the suite and the opera begin with a 'musical sneeze', best explained in Kodály's own words: "*According to Hungarian superstition, if a statement is followed by a sneeze of one of the hearers, it is regarded as confirmation of its truth. The Suite begins with a sneeze of this kind! One of Háry's group of faithful listeners ...sneezes at the wildest assertions of the old talespinner.*"

According to Kodály, Háry János is "*the personification of the Hungarian story-telling imagination. He does not tell lies; he imagines stories; he is a poet. What he tells us may never have happened, but he has experienced it in spirit, so it is more real than reality.*"

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