

FELIX SLATKIN

THE CONCERT ARTS ORCHESTRA

DELIUS Orchestral Music

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| ❑ 1. On Hearing the First Cuckoo in Spring (6:18) | ❑ 10. The Aviary (1:10) |
| ❑ 2. Summer Night on the River (5:48) | ❑ 11. Pianists (1:06) |
| ❑ 3. Intermezzo from 'Hassan' (2:04) | ❑ 12. Fossils (1:24) |
| ❑ 4. Serenade from 'Hassan' (2:00) | ❑ 13. The Swan (3:09) |
| ❑ 5. Caprice for Cello and Orchestra (2:52) | ❑ 14. Finale (1:58) |
| ❑ 6. Elegy for Cello and Orchestra (4:43) | Victor Allier, piano |
| ❑ 7. Prelude to 'Irmelin' (4:17) | Harry Sukman, piano |
| Paul Shure: solo violin | Recorded 11 April, 1954 |
| Eleanor Allier: solo cello | First issued as Capitol P. 8270 |
| Recorded 8 & 11 September, 1952 | |
| First issued as Capitol P. 8182 | |

SAINT-SAËNS Carnival of the Animals

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| ❑ 8. 1. Introduction: Royal March of the Lion (1:53) | ❑ 2. Cortège (4:38) |
| ❑ 9. 2. Cocks and Hens (0:45) | ❑ 3. Nocturne (2:51) |
| ❑ 3. Wild Asses (0:40) | ❑ 4. Valse (3:03) |
| ❑ 4. Tortoises (2:08) | ❑ 5. Parade (1:53) |
| ❑ 5. The Elephant (1:19) | ❑ 6. Finale (1:47) |
| ❑ 6. Kangaroos (1:11) | Recorded 23 November, 1953 |
| ❑ 7. The Aquarium (2:22) | First issued as Capitol P. 8270 |
| ❑ 8. Personages with Long Ears (0:48) | |
| ❑ 9. The Cuckoo in the Wood (2:47) | |

The Concert Arts Orchestra
conducted by Felix Slatkin

Transfers by Edward Johnson from his private collection
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Cover artwork based on a photograph of Felix Slatkin

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#SARL Pristine Audio, Le Bourg, 24610 St. Méard de Gurçon, France - Tel +33 (0)5 53 82 18 57 - Internet: www.pristineclassical.com



FELIX SLATKIN

Felix Slatkin (December 22, 1915 – February 8, 1963) was an American violinist and conductor. Slatkin was born in St. Louis, Missouri to a Jewish family originally named Zlotkin from areas of the Russian Empire now in Ukraine. He began studying the violin at the age of nine with Isadore Grossman. He began working professionally at the age of ten and won a scholarship to the Curtis Institute, where he studied violin with Efrem Zimbalist and conducting with Fritz Reiner.

At age 17 he joined the St. Louis Symphony and formed a chamber orchestra of young musicians. In 1935 he won a competition which included a solo appearance with the Hollywood Bowl Symphony Orchestra and Jose Iturbi. Around this time he met cellist Eleanor Aller, also of Russian Jewish extraction, whom he later married. During the Second World War, he served his country as a musician at the Santa Ana Air Force Base and as a conductor of the Army Air Force Tactical Command Orchestra, an organization that raised over 100 million dollars in war bonds.

He settled in Los Angeles and accepted the post of Concertmaster for Twentieth Century Fox Studios, performing numerous violin solos in motion pictures such as *How Green Was My Valley* and *How to Marry a Millionaire*. In 1939 he founded the highly-acclaimed Hollywood String Quartet, which produced over 21 albums for Capitol Records and toured the United States, Europe, Australia and New Zealand, including a special appearance in 1957 for the Edinburgh Festival. In 1958, the quartet won a Grammy Award for Best Classical Performance-Orchestra from the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences for its performance of the Beethoven *Late String Quartets*.

His conducting career included his founding of the Concert Arts Orchestra and appearances with the Hollywood Bowl Symphony Orchestra. He was Frank Sinatra's concertmaster and conductor of choice during the Capitol years of the 1950's. He made over 25 recordings with these orchestras, also on the Capitol label, including a recording of Offenbach's *Gaîté Parisienne* (a ballet arranged by Manuel Rosenthal), which won a Grammy Award in 1958. He also made over a dozen recordings for Liberty Records establishing "*The Fantastic Strings, Fantastic Fiddles, Fantastic Percussion, and Fantastic Brass of Felix Slatkin*." In 1962, his recording entitled *Hoedown* won a grammy nomination. In 1995, the Hollywood Quartet won the London Gramophone award for their historic recording of Schönberg's *Verklärte Nacht* and Schubert's *Quintet in C Major*.

Felix Slatkin died from a heart attack at the age of 47.

Felix's son, Leonard Slatkin is the conductor of the National Symphony Orchestra, and his other son, Frederick Zlotkin (who uses the original Russian spelling of the family name) is Principal Cellist for the New York City Ballet and the cellist for the Lyric Piano Quartet.

NOTES FROM WIKIPEDIA - FURTHER NOTES ONLINE AT WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM