

GEORGE WELDON

CONDUCTS ELGAR



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- ❑ **In the South, 'Allassio', Overture, Op.50** (23:06)
Recorded at Abbey Road Studio 1 on 19th February 1954
First issued as UK Columbia LP 33SX1028 in July 1954

Sea Pictures, Op. 37

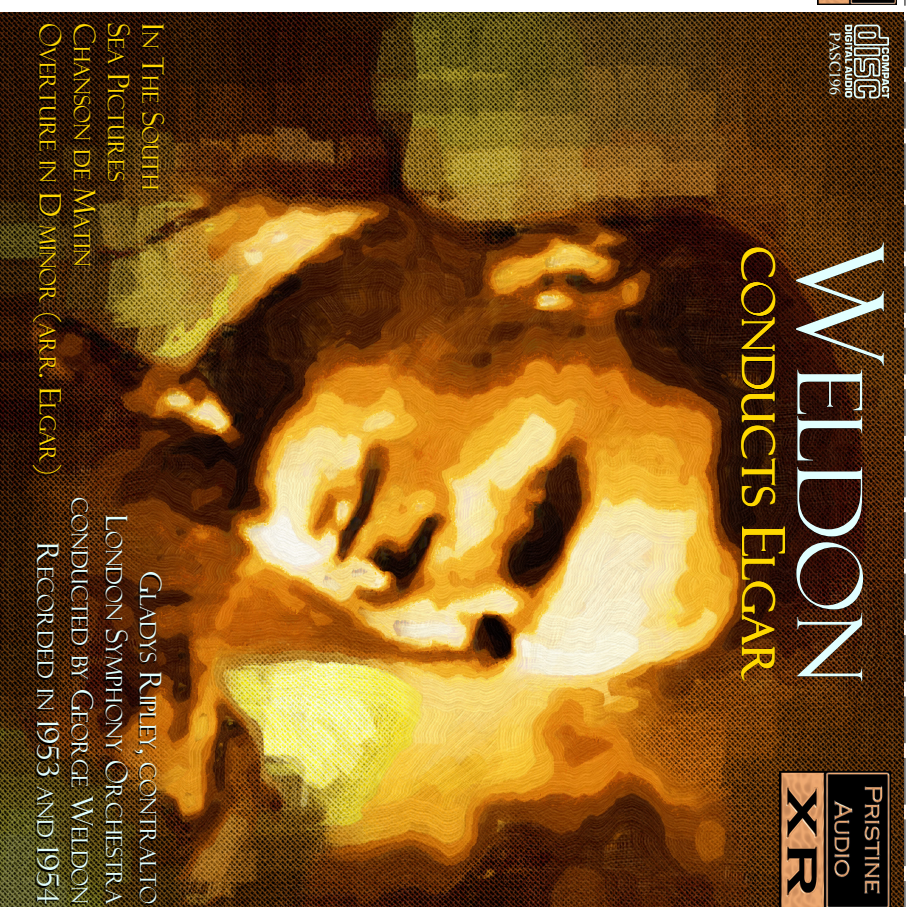
- ❑ 1. Sea Slumber-Song (R. Noel) (5:06)
❑ 2. In haven (Capri) (C. A. Elgar) (1:43)
❑ 3. Sabbath Morning at Sea (E. B. Browning) (6:48)
❑ 4. Where Corals Lie (R. Garrett) (3:20)
❑ 5. The Swimmer (A. L. Gordon) (6:04)
Gladys Ripley, *contralto*
Recorded at Abbey Road Studio 1 on 26th February 1954
First issued as UK Columbia LP 33SX1028 in July 1954

- ❑ **Chanson de Matin, Op.15, No.2** (3:33)
Recorded at Abbey Road Studio 1 on 11th December 1953
First issued as UK Columbia 78 DX1908 and 45 SCD2035 in April 1954

- ❑ **Overture in D** (from Chandos Anthem No. 2) (Handel, arr. Elgar) (5:36)
Recorded at Abbey Road Studio 1 on 19th February 1954
First issued as UK Columbia 45 SED516 in September 1954

The London Symphony Orchestra
conducted by George Weldon

Transfers by Edward Johnson from his private collection
XR remastering by Andrew Rose at Pristine Audio, June 2009
Cover artwork based on a photograph of George Weldon
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WELDON, LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

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George Weldon (June 5, 1908, Chichester, England – August 17, 1963, South Africa) was an English conductor. Weldon was educated at Sherborne School and at the Royal College of Music. He studied conducting with Malcolm Sargent. In 1943, at 36 years of age, he became the conductor of the City of Birmingham Orchestra in succession to Leslie Heward, where he largely reconstituted the orchestra.

Ruth Gipps became the choirmaster of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra Choir in 1948 after the birth of her son, Lance, the previous year. Rumours circulated that the married Gipps was having an affair with Weldon and that Lance was Weldon's son, but these were never confirmed.

In 1950 it was suddenly announced that Weldon would be replaced by Rudolf Schwarz. The reasons for this are unclear, but according to Ruth Gipps, Weldon resigned before he could be dismissed.[3] In 1952 he became assistant to John Barbirolli at the Hallé Orchestra and remained in that position until his death. While in Manchester, he took charge of the Hallé summer seasons of promenade concerts, and many industrial concerts around the north of England. He frequently conducted in London and abroad, made broadcasts and many records.

In an online biography (a free download from www.georgeweldon.co.uk), Jean Powrie mentions Weldon's time with the London Symphony Orchestra:

In 1954 the LSO recorded three works with George Weldon. Two of these, both by Elgar, his concert overture, 'In the South' and the song cycle 'Sea Pictures' with Gladys Ripley as soloist, were combined to create what was still considered in 1966, three years after Weldon's death, 'a splendid disc'. 'In both works' the anonymous critic continued, 'Weldon drew vigorous, warm playing from the LSO and for any Elgarian, this is an essential disc. The opening of 'In the South' at once gives the lie to any idea that this is unmemorable music. It launches one into the music with extraordinary exhilaration and the massive structure is masterfully controlled...The recording is excellent.'

George Weldon and Gladys Ripley had previously recorded 'Sea Pictures' in 1946 with the Philharmonia Orchestra. This recording has been reproduced on CD by Pearl (2004). Brian B.Culverhouse considers the LSO recording to have been the better. He recalls that during the LSO sessions Gladys Ripley complained of a sore throat and believes this was the onset of the cancer from which she died the following year.

1954 was the 50th jubilee of the LSO. This was celebrated on June 6th by a special charity gala concert, given in the Royal Albert Hall in the presence of the Queen Mother. The programme played at the LSO's initial concert was repeated in the same format. Each work was to be under the direction of a conductor who had been closely associated with the Orchestra. Muir Mathieson, George Weldon, Basil Cameron and Sir Malcolm Sargent all took part, George Weldon conducting Bach's Suite No.3 in D. The other designated conductor, Professor Joseph Krips, Conductor-in-Chief of the LSO, had resigned due to a dispute and was replaced by Anthony Collins.

In August, still without a Conductor-in-Chief, the LSO was scheduled to give concerts at Knokke (Belgium) and at the Kerkrade (Netherlands) Music Festival, under the auspices of The British Council. George Weldon took over and accompanied the LSO abroad. It was reported in The British Council Music Advisory Committee minutes, that these concerts had been 'very successful and the press notices were most enthusiastic.' As usual, George Weldon had taken charge at the last minute and 'pulled it off'.

The last recordings George Weldon made with the LSO were the only recordings he made in 1955, Grieg's 'Peer Gynt' Suite 2 and Holst's 'Marching Song' Opus 22. Both were made on September 12th.

NOTES FROM WIKIPEDIA AND GEORGEWELDON.CO.UK - FURTHER NOTES ONLINE AT WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM