



SIBELIUS: A 78RPM ANTHOLOGY



Karelia Suite, Op. 11

- 1. Intermezzo (3:40)
- 3. Alla marcia (4:14)

The Royal Philharmonic Society's Orchestra
conducted by Robert Kajanus, May 1930
UK Columbia DX307, Matrices WYX19-20, 1st takes

Rakastava (The Lover), Op. 14

- 1. Rakastava (The Lover) (3:57)
- 2. Rakastetuntie (The Road of the Beloved) (1:57)
- 3. Hyvää iltaa Jää hyvästi (Good Evening - Farewell) (4:48)

King Christian II, Suite Op. 27

- 2. Elegie (3:55)

The Leslie Heward String Orchestra
(Drawn from the City of Birmingham Orchestra's string section)
conducted by Leslie Heward, February 14, 1941
UK Columbia DX.1004-5, Matrices CAX 8834-7, 1st takes

The Swan of Tuonela, Op. 22, No. 3 (8:33)

The Philadelphia Orchestra
conducted by Eugene Ormandy, October 20, 1940
HMV DB.5832, Matrices 2A.047823-4

Scenes Historiques, Op. 25

- 3. Festivo (Tempo di Bolero) (7:08)

London Philharmonic Orchestra
conducted by Sir Thomas Beecham, December 14, 1935
UK Columbia LX.501, Matrices CAX 7769-70, 1st takes

Belshazzar's Feast, Op. 51

- 1. Oriental Procession (2:36)
- 2. Solitude (3:47)
- 3. Night Music (4:40)
- 4. Khadra's Dance (3:43)

London Symphony Orchestra
conducted by Robert Kajanus, June 24 & 29, 1932
HMV DB.3937-8, Matrices 2B.2943-5 & 2960 Takes 1, 2, 1, 1

Swanwhite, Op. 54

- 3. The Maidens with Roses (3:09)

Boston Symphony Orchestra
conducted by Serge Koussevitzky, December 12, 1936
HMV DB.3171, Matrix 2A.03175

Dances Champêtres, Op. 106

- 1. Largamente assai (3:56)
- 2. Alla polacca (1:46)

Romance in F major, Op. 78, No. 2 (2:53)

Emil Telmányi, violin
Georg Vasarhelyi, piano (14), March 3, 1936
Gerald Moore, piano (15, 16), March 28, 1935
HMV DB.2893, Matrices 2RA.1042, 2EA.1348, Takes 1, 3

Malinconia, Op. 20 (9:02)

Louis Jensen, cello
Galina Werschenskaya, piano, August 26, 1936
HMV DB.5223, Matrices 2CS.955-6, 2nd takes

Transfers and XR remastering by Andrew Rose at Pristine Audio, November 2009

All disc information taken from transfers used for this compilation

Cover artwork based on a photograph of Jean Sibelius

Total duration: 73:44 ©2009 Pristine Audio.

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



SIBELIUS



A 78RPM ANTHOLOGY

KARELIA SUITE
RAKASTAVA
KING CHRISTIAN II
THE SWAN OF TUONELA
SCENES HISTORIQUES
BELSHAZZAR'S FEAST
SWANWHITE
DANCES CHAMPÊTRES
ROMANCE IN F
MALINCOLIA

FEATURING VARIOUS ORCHESTRAS CONDUCTED BY:
BEECHAM, HEWARD, KAJANUS, KOUSSEVITZKY, ORMANDY

PLUS CHAMBER MUSIC RECORDINGS FEATURING:
EMIL TELMANYI AND LOUIS JENSEN

A COLLECTION OF 78RPM RECORDINGS MADE BETWEEN 1930 AND 1941

A 78RPM ANTHOLOGY

Jean Sibelius (8 December 1865 – 20 September 1957) was a Finnish composer of the later Romantic period whose music played an important role in the formation of the Finnish national identity.

The core of Sibelius's oeuvre is his set of seven symphonies. Like Beethoven, Sibelius used each one to develop further his own personal compositional style. Unlike Beethoven who used the symphonies to make public statements, and who reserved his more intimate feelings for his smaller works, Sibelius released his personal feelings in the symphonies. These works continue to be performed frequently in the concert hall and are often recorded.

In addition to the symphonies, Sibelius's best-known compositions include *Finlandia*, *Valse Triste*, the violin concerto, the *Karelia Suite* and *The Swan of Tuonela* (one of the four movements of the *Lemminkäinen Suite*). Other works include pieces inspired by the *Kalevala*, over 100 songs for voice and piano, incidental music for 13 plays, the opera *Jungfrun i tornet* (The Maiden in the Tower), chamber music, piano music, 21 separate publications of choral music, and Masonic ritual music. Sibelius composed prolifically until the mid-1920s. However, soon after completing his Seventh Symphony (1924), the incidental music to *The Tempest* (1926), and the tone poem *Tapiola* (1926), he produced no large scale works for the remaining thirty years of his life. Although he is reputed to have stopped composing, he did attempt to continue writing, including abortive attempts to compose an eighth symphony. He wrote some Masonic music and re-edited some earlier works during this last period of his life, and retained an active interest in new developments in music, although he did not always view modern music favorably.

Transfer notes

This anthology of recordings was entirely drawn from a single album compiled by the late professor of music at a UK university whose extensive collection of 78s was acquired by Pristine Audio some years ago. It supplemented the Sibelius Society collection of some six volumes, and together with a handful of other recordings, represents a pretty successful attempt to bring together just about all of the recordings of Sibelius available to the British record buyer in the 1930s and early 1940s from the two major record companies.

I have kept very closely to the professor's order of discs, merely reversing the two recordings made by Emil Telmányi and Gerald Moore from their order on a single disc side in order to bring together the two *Dances Champêtres*. Alas two discs arrived broken - the perpetual peril in shipping shellac discs, and thus we do not have Beecham's RPO *Tapiola*. However, the rest of the discs survived in remarkably good condition, with very few scratches indeed, and almost no evidence of wear. All possessed the typical 'bacon frying' crackle of British pressings, all replayed well, and swish was remarkable by its general absence. Although there is some difference in sound quality between the earlier and later recordings, all have responded exceptionally well to XR remastering, and sound quality is generally excellent.

NOTES FROM WIKIPEDIA AND BY ANDREW ROSE - FURTHER NOTES ONLINE AT WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM