



EUGENE ORMANDY

CONDUCTS ALBÉNIZ - IBERIA

PRISTINE
AUDIO

Eugene Ormandy (November 18, 1899–March 12, 1985) was a Hungarian-born conductor and violinist.

Ormandy's 44-year tenure with the Philadelphia Orchestra began in 1936 and became the source of much of his lasting reputation and fame. Two years after his appointment as associate conductor under Leopold Stokowski, he became its music director. (Stokowski continued to conduct some concerts in Philadelphia until 1941; he returned as a guest conductor in 1960.) As music director, Ormandy conducted from 100 to 180 concerts each year in Philadelphia. Upon his retirement in 1980, he was made conductor laureate.

Ormandy was a quick learner of scores, often conducting from memory and without a baton. He demonstrated exceptional musical and personal integrity, exceptional leadership skills, and a formal and reserved podium manner in the style of his idol and friend, Arturo Toscanini. One orchestra musician complimented him by saying: "He doesn't try to conduct every note as some conductors do." Under Ormandy's direction the Philadelphia Orchestra continued the lush, legato style originated by Stokowski and for which the orchestra was well known. Ormandy's conducting style was praised for its opulent sound, but also was criticized for supposedly lacking any real individual touch.

Ormandy was particularly noted for conducting late Romantic and early 20th century music. He particularly favored Bruckner, Debussy, Dvořák, Ravel, Richard Strauss, Tchaikovsky, and transcriptions of Bach. His performances of Beethoven, Brahms, Haydn, and Mozart were considered less successful by some critics, especially when he applied the lush, so-called "Philadelphia Sound" to them. He was particularly noted as a champion of Sergei Rachmaninoff's music, conducting the premiere of his Symphonic Dances and leading the orchestra in the composer's own recordings of three of his piano concertos in 1939-40. He also directed the American premiere of several symphonies by Dmitri Shostakovich. He made the first recording of Deryck Cooke's first performing edition of the complete Mahler Tenth Symphony, which many critics praised. He also performed a great deal of American music and gave many premières of works by Samuel Barber, Paul Creston, David Diamond, Howard Hanson, Walter Piston, Ned Rorem, William Schuman, Roger Sessions, Virgil Thompson, and Richard Yardumian.

The Philadelphia Orchestra under Ormandy's direction frequently performed outside of Philadelphia, in New York and other American cities, and undertook a number of foreign tours. During a 1955 tour of Finland, Ormandy and many of the Orchestra's members visited the elderly composer Jean Sibelius at his country estate; Ormandy was photographed with Sibelius and the picture later appeared on the cover of his 1962 stereo recording of the composer's first symphony. During a 1973 tour of the People's Republic of China, the Orchestra performed to enthusiastic audiences that had been isolated from Western classical music for many decades.

Producer's Note, by Mark Obert-Thorn

Albéniz composed *Iberia* for solo piano between 1906 and 1909. At the urging of his friend, conductor and violinist Enrique Fernandez Arbós, the composer began to orchestrate the work, but died before making much progress. Ultimately, Arbós orchestrated five of the pieces, which he published in 1927. Composer/conductor Carlos Surinach published his orchestration of the remaining items in 1954.

American Columbia was slow to adopt stereo, and started to record in two channels only toward the end of 1956. As a result, the present set was only set down in monaural sound. It has never received an official CD reissue from Sony (nor, indeed, an LP reissue after the original album went out of print), and it remains the only recording Ormandy made of this colorful, virtuosic score.

FULL PROGRAMME NOTES CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM

SARL Pristine Audio, Le Bourg, 24610 St. Méard de Gurçon, France - Tel. (00) 33 553 821857
Internet: www.pristineclassical.com



ORMANDY

CONDUCTS ALBÉNIZ



IBERIA

(ORCHESTRATED BY ARBÓS AND SURINACH)

THE PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA

STUDIO RECORDED, 1956



ORMANDY CONDUCTS ALBÉNIZ

ALBENIZ: IBERIA (ORCH. ARBÓS, SURINACH)

BOOK ONE

- 1. *Evocación* (4:09)
- 2. *El Puerto* (4:52)
- 3. *El Corpus en Sevilla (Fête-Dieu à Seville)* (8:13)

BOOK TWO

- 4. *Rondeña* (6:20)
- 5. *Almería* (7:23)
- 6. *Triana* (4:59)

BOOK THREE

- 7. *El Albaicín* (6:12)
- 8. *El Polo* (5:45)
- 9. *Lavapiés* (7:11)

BOOK FOUR

- 10. *Málaga* (4:44)
- 11. *Jérez* (6:27)
- 12. *Eritaña* (4:32)

The Philadelphia Orchestra
conductor **Eugene Ormandy**



PASC 262

Producer and Audio
Restoration Engineer:
Mark Obert-Thorn

Recorded 10th January
(Tracks 1, 4, 5 and 7),
19th February (Tracks 9 – 12)
& 8th April (Tracks 2, 3, 6 and 8)
1956 in the Academy of Music,
Philadelphia

First issued on American
Columbia ML-5017 and 5018
in album M2L 237

Cover artwork based
on a photograph of
Eugene Ormandy

Total duration: **70:47**

For a full catalogue visit
www.pristineclassical.com
or call : (00) 33 979 622713

© 2010 **Pristine Audio**

