

Howard Hanson

Elliott Carter Wallingford Riegger Edward Macdowell

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Howard Harold Hanson (October 28, 1896 – February 26, 1981) was an American composer, conductor, educator, music theorist, and champion of American classical music. As director for 40 years of the Eastman School of Music, he built a high quality school and provided opportunities for commissioning and performing American music. He won a Pulitzer Prize for one of his works and received numerous other awards.

In 1921 Hanson was the first winner of the Prix de Rome in Music (the American Academy's Rome Prize), awarded for both *The California Forest Play* and his symphonic poem *Before the Dawn*. Thanks to the award, Hanson lived in Italy for three years. Upon returning from Rome, Hanson's conducting career expanded. He made his premiere conducting the New York Symphony Orchestra in his tone poem *North and West*. In Rochester, New York in 1924, he conducted his *Symphony No. 1*. This performance brought him to the attention of George Eastman.

Eastman chose Hanson to be director of the Eastman School of Music. Business master George Eastman, inventor of the Kodak camera, and roll film, was also a major philanthropist; he used some of his great wealth to endow the Eastman School of Music at the University of Rochester. Hanson held the position of director for forty years, during which he created one of the most prestigious music schools in America. He accomplished this by improving the curriculum, bringing in better teachers, and refining the school's orchestras. Also, he balanced the school's faculty between American and European teachers, even when this meant passing up composer Béla Bartók. Hanson offered a position to Bartók teaching composition at Eastman, but Bartók declined as he did not believe that one could teach composition. Instead, Bartók wanted to teach piano at the Eastman School, but Hanson already had a full staff of piano instructors.

In 1923, Hanson established the American Composers Orchestral Concerts. Later, he founded the Eastman-Rochester Orchestra, which consisted of first chair players from the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra and selected students from the Eastman School. He followed that by establishing the Festivals of American Music. Hanson made many recordings (mostly for Mercury Records) with the Eastman-Rochester Orchestra, not only of his own works, but also those of other American composers such as John Alden Carpenter, Charles Tomlinson Griffes, John Knowles Paine, Walter Piston, and William Grant Still. Hanson estimated that more than 2000 works by over 500 American composers were premiered during his tenure at the Eastman School.

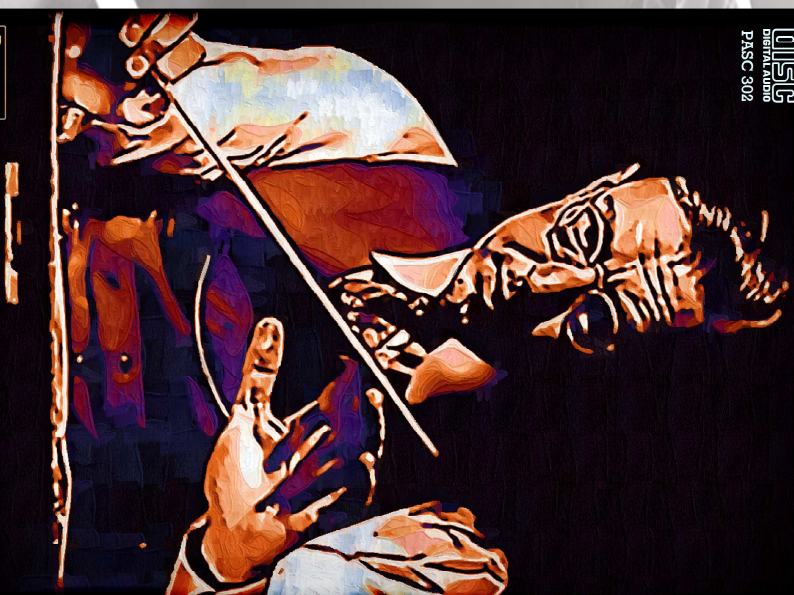
Notes from Wikipedia

Recording and restoration notes

Both the Carter and the Riegger were transferred from mint 1978s reissues pressed in Holland by Philips for Mercury's "Golden Imports" imprint. I've successfully removed all trace of their phasist electronic stereo, which not only made them almost unlistenable but also screwed badly with the phase relationship between the two channels. The MacDowell comes from a mid-sixties mono reissue in an American Mercury pressing where none of these problems was an issue. In all three cases the discs can be described as near-mint condition and offered few other difficulties in transfer. The recordings were typically well-made Mercury "Living Presence" productions and have responded well to gentle 32-bit XR remastering. Track-splitting and naming for the Carter suite was slightly tricky as the LP was somewhat vague with respect to tracks. I deferred therefore to the complete recording of the Ballet on Nonesuch Records in this respect, which offers 17 tracks in total. The suite includes a short cut in the Entrance of the Bulls, then omits the Interlude and first three numbers of Scene Two and the later item "Ariadne unweaves her thread" but otherwise appears complete. AR

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Hanson

conducts

American

Music Vol. 3

Carter

The Minotaur Suite

Riegger

New Dance

Macdowell

"Indian" Suite

Eastman-Rochester Orchestra

Mercury studio recordings

1953 & 1955

Hanson American Music Volume 3

ELLIOTT CARTER The Minotaur *Ballet Suite* (1947)

- 1 **Scene 1 – Overture** (1:16)
- 2 Queen Pasiphaë prepares for a tryst with the sacred bull (3:28)
- 3 Entrance of the bulls and the sacred bull (0:11)
- 4 Dance of the bulls and Pasiphaë with the sacred bull (3:10)
- 5 **Scene 2** Ariadne, princess of Crete, dances with Theseus, a Greek victim (4:37)
- 6 Greek victims are driven into the labyrinth (1:53)
- 7 Theseus' farewell to Ariadne as he enters the labyrinth (1:41)
- 8 Theseus fights and kills the Minotaur (1:24)
- 9 Ariadne rewinds the thread to lead Theseus out of the labyrinth (2:19)
- 10 A thread breaks, Ariadne is greatly dismayed (1:48)
- 11 Theseus and some of the Greeks emerge from the labyrinth and rejoice (1:11)
- 12 The Greeks and Theseus, forgetting Ariadne, leave Crete (3:42)