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PASC 331

Sir Hamilton Harty

Dvořák • Smetana • Liszt • Brahms

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Sir (Herbert) Hamilton Harty (4 December 1879 – 19 February 1941) was an Irish composer, conductor, pianist and organist.

After an early career as a church organist in his native Ireland, Harty moved to London at about age 20, soon becoming a well-known piano accompanist. The Musical Times called him "the prince of accompanists". As a composer he wrote throughout his career, many of his works being well received, though few are regularly performed in the 21st century.

In his career as a conductor, which began in 1904, Harty was particularly noted as an interpreter of the music of Berlioz. From 1920 to 1933 he was the chief conductor of the Hallé Orchestra in Manchester, which he returned to the high standards and critical acclaim that it had enjoyed under its founder, Charles Hallé. His last permanent post was with the London Symphony Orchestra, but it lasted only two years, from 1932 to 1934. During his conducting career, Harty made some recordings with his orchestras. Shortly after his dismissal by the LSO, Harty began to suffer the symptoms of a brain tumour. After surgery, he resumed his career until 1940, but the tumour returned to cause his death at the age of 61.

Notes from Wikipedia

Producer's Note

The sources for the present transfers were primarily American Columbia pressings from the late 1920s through the late 1930s a "Royal Blue" shellac copy for the Smetana; a combination of a blue "microphone" label pressing and a laminated Australian Columbia for the Liszt; "Full-Range" era copies of the Brahms pieces and the Dvořák *Slavonic Dances*, a "Viva-Tonal" pressing of the *Carnival Overture*; and a c.1935 "large-label post-Viva" set for the *New World Symphony*, with two sides taken from a "Viva" copy.

The *New World* posed particular restoration problems in that it required not only significant pitch corrections throughout each side, but also volume level adjustments to counteract the frequent gain-riding of the original engineers. Once fixed, however, this early set rather surprisingly revealed the best recorded sound of any of the discs, with a level of detail and breadth of frequency range associated with recordings made a decade later.

Mark Obert-Thorn

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

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DVOŘÁK

New World Symphony
Carnival Overture

SMETANA

Bartered Bride Overture

LISZT

Hungarian Rhapsody No. 12

BRAHMS

Hungarian Dances Nos. 5 & 6

Myra Hess (piano) • Hallé Orchestra
London Philharmonic Orchestra
Studio recordings, 1927-33

Obert-Thorn

Harty Dvořák • Smetana • Liszt • Brahms

1 SMETANA *The Bartered Bride - Overture* (6:39)

Recorded 17 November 1933 in EMI Abbey Road Studio No. 1
Matrix nos. CAX 6995-2 and 6996-1 • First issued on Columbia DX 562

London Philharmonic Orchestra

2 LISZT (arr. Doppler) *Hungarian Rhapsody No. 12* (9:13)

Recorded 10 April 1931 in the Central Hall, Westminster
Matrix nos. WAX 6060-3 and 6061-2 • First issued on Columbia LX 132

3 BRAHMS (arr. Parlow) *Hungarian Dance No. 5* (2:24)

4 BRAHMS (arr. Parlow) *Hungarian Dance No. 6* (2:56)

Recorded 11 February 1929 in Free Trade Hall, Manchester
Matrix nos. WA 8539-2 and 8540-1 • First issued on Columbia 5466

5 DVOŘÁK *Carnival Overture* (7:13)

Recorded 30 April 1927 in Free Trade Hall, Manchester
Matrix nos. WRAX 2556-1 and 2557-2 • First issued on Columbia L 2036

DVOŘÁK *Symphony No. 9 in E minor, Op. 95 ("From the New World")*

6 1st Mvt. - *Adagio - Allegro molto* (7:30)

7 2nd Mvt. - *Largo* (10:38)

8 3rd Mvt. - *Molto vivace* (5:44)

9 4th Mvt. - *Allegro con fuoco* (9:49)

Recorded 2 May 1927 in Free Trade Hall, Manchester
Matrix nos. WRAX 2671-2, 2672-1, 2673-1, 2674-1, 2675-2, 2676-1, 2677-2, 2678-2, 2679-2 and 2680-2
First issued on Columbia 9770 through 9774

Hallé Orchestra

Sir Hamilton Harty conductor

10 DVOŘÁK *Slavonic Dance No. 1 in C major, Op. 46, No. 1* (3:30)

Recorded 17 October 1933 in EMI Abbey Road Studio No. 3
Matrix no.: CA 14066-1 • First issued on Columbia DB 1235

Myra Hess & Sir Hamilton Harty piano duet

Producer & Audio Restoration
Engineer **Mark Obert-Thorn**

Special thanks to Nathan Brown
and Charles Niss for providing
source material

Cover artwork based on a
photograph of **Sir Hamilton Harty**

Total duration: **65:36**

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