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DIGITAL AUDIO
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Paul Paray

Rimsky-Korsakov Ravel

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Paul Paray, whose personal and musical dynamism has created considerable excitement in Detroit and elsewhere in the country, where he has appeared as guest conductor, is a musician of singularly wide background and experience. In 1911 he was a Prix de Rome winner at the Paris Conservatoire, but his subsequent musical activities were interrupted by combat duty in World War One. Only in 1918 did young Paray embark in earnest on a conductorial career. First he was appointed assistant conductor of the Lamoureux Orchestra in Paris; then in 1923 he became that orchestra's permanent leader. Nine years later saw Paray taking over the famous Concerts Colonne in Paris, succeeding Gabriel Pierné. Paray's American debut was with the N. Y. Philharmonic Symphony at Lewisohn Stadium, where he scored a dazzling personal triumph and was acknowledged as one of Europe's greatest masters of the baton; but again the onset of war made it impossible for him to follow up his initial success. The war and occupation years in Paris saw him defying the Nazis at every turn, using the power of music and of his personal prestige as his principal weapons. Only when his own life was in immediate and deadly peril did he "exile" himself to Monte Carlo until after the liberation, when Paris welcomed him home as a conquering hero.

It was in 1951 that Paul Paray, now an Officer of the Legion of Honor and a "Membre d'Illustitut", returned to America, there to conduct the first five concerts of the reorganized Detroit Symphony Orchestra. So overwhelming was the power and vitality of his musicianship that his appointment as permanent conductor was assured; and in the fall of 1952 Paray was proud conductor of an expanded 104-piece Detroit Symphony boasting in its first chairs and in its ranks some of the finest musicians in the country.

FOR BEST RESULTS, this record should be played at FULL ROOM VOLUME. Only in this way will the quieter musical passages be heard in proper relationship to the full orchestra climaxes.

Mercury MG50028 - excerpts from original LP sleeve notes

Transfer notes

Mercury was quick to sign up Paul Paray and the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, and the earlier of the two LPs represented here, their recordings of February 1953 of Rimsky-Korsakov's *Capriccio Espagnol* and Ravel's *Boléro* were the first recordings of a lengthy collaboration between the musicians and the record company. Despite there being only 10 months between them, these recordings do seem slightly less polished technically than the later work on this release. *Boléro* was a clear case of "fader riding" - the microphone had been turned up to full gain to capture the quiet beginning and then gradually reduced in level to compensate for the huge rise in orchestral volume throughout Ravel's lengthy *crucendo*. I've tried to compensate for this and return some of the orchestra's full dynamic range in this restoration, as well as considerably improving the orchestral tone throughout. AR

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

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conducts

Rimsky-Korsakov

Symphony No. 2 "Antar"

Russian Easter Festival Overture
Capriccio Espagnol

Ravel

Boléro

Detroit Symphony Orchestra

Mercury studio recordings, 1953

XR remastering by **Andrew Rose**

Transfers from Mercury LPs by
Edward Johnson

Cover artwork based on a
painting of **Rimsky-Korsakov**
by Valentin Serov, 1898

Russian Easter Festival Overture
Symphony No. 2

Recorded 7 December 1953
Orchestra Hall, Detroit
Issued as Mercury MG-50028

Capriccio Espagnol
Boléro

Recorded 13-20 February 1953
Orchestra Hall, Detroit
Issued as Mercury MG-50020

Total duration: **69:12**

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Paray Rimsky-Korsakov & Ravel

☐ **RIMSKY-KORSAKOV - Russian Easter Festival Overture** (13:24)

RIMSKY-KORSAKOV Symphony No. 2 "Antar", Op. 9

☐ 1st mvt. - The Beautiful Desert of Sham (10:07)

☐ 2nd mvt. - The Pleasure of Vengeance (4:59)

☐ 3rd mvt. - The Pleasure of Power (5:34)

☐ 4th mvt. - The Pleasure of Love (7:24)

☐ **RIMSKY-KORSAKOV - Capriccio Espagnol** (14:33)

☐ **RAVEL - Boléro** (13:11)

Detroit Symphony Orchestra Paul Paray