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PASC 368
STEREO

Charles Munch

Boston Symphony Orchestra

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Nicole Henriot-Schweitzer in the d'Indy has the handicap of a tap-room piano, but the poise, delicacy and spirit of her playing shine through (her *subito* and sustained *pp* from 4'36" in the first movement, is, like much else here, utterly enchanting). Munch takes a fresher view of the score than many latter-day interpreters, and judges to perfection the difficult tempo relationships in the central *Assez modéré*. Had not Dutoit (with Jean-Yves Thibaudet) come up trumps with a recent account of the d'Indy that must be one of the finest things he has done in Montreal (full-price coupled with the Franck Symphony), this Boston account would be a clear first choice.

JS, Gramophone, May 1995 - review of d'Indy, RCA Victor reissue

Transfer notes

The restoration and remastering of this release has been particularly fascinating for me. First of all we have what would appear to be the only extant recording of Vaughan Williams' *Symphony No. 8 in D minor* which features neither a British orchestra nor a British conductor. Indeed we can only trace one other recording of the work, made in the later 1950s with Barbirolli conducting the New York Philharmonic, which was not made with a British orchestra. Previously unreleased, Munch and the Boston Symphony make a superb job in this broadcast recording from the Berkshire Festival at Tanglewood - some may even find this the finest recording this symphony has ever had; it's certainly how it was introduced to me.

We opted to couple the Vaughan Williams with the commercial Ravel and d'Indy recording partly because of the links between the two French composers and the Vaughan Williams. Seeking advice over orchestration, he was advised early in his career to study with both Frenchmen, and indeed did spend time working under Ravel in 1908, who described Vaughan Williams as the only one of his pupils who didn't write music like his own.

The discs used for these transfers are contemporary audiophile pressings on the Classic Records label, remastered from the original RCA Victor master tapes and pressed onto 200g single-sided vinyl at 45rpm for maximum fidelity. Despite some unexpected technical difficulties experienced with the discs themselves (all easily resolved in the restoration process), the sound quality is indeed superb here. Further impressions of these discs can be found in our newsletters of 16 and 23 November 2012, archived at the Pristine Classical website. AR

FULL PROGRAMME NOTES CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM
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VAUGHAN WILLIAMS Symphony No. 8
RAVEL Piano Concerto in G
D'INDY Symphony on a French Mountain Air
Nicole Henriot-Schweitzer, piano
Live and studio stereo recordings, 1958

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MUNCH CONDUCTS VAUGHAN WILLIAMS, RAVEL & D'INDY
MUNCH, BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

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Total duration: **76:25**

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XR remastering by **Andrew Rose**

Cover artwork based on a photograph
of **Charles Munch**

Vaughan Williams

Recorded 2 August 1958
Live, Music Shed, Tanglewood
Berkshire Festival

Ravel, d'Indy

Recorded 28 March 1958
Issued as RCA LSC-2271
Transfers from Classic Records LSC-2271-45

VAUGHAN WILLIAMS *Symphony No. 8 in D minor*

- 1 1st mvt - Fantasia (Variazioni senza tema) (15:52)
- 2 2nd mvt - Scherzo alla Marcia (3:52)
- 3 3rd mvt - Cavatina (8:50)
- 4 4th mvt - Toccata (5:35)

RAVEL *Piano Concerto in G*

- 5 1st mvt. - Allegrement (8:19)
- 6 2nd mvt. - Adagio assai (8:58)
- 7 3rd mvt. - Presto (4:28)

D'INDY *Symphony on a French Mountain Air, Op. 25*

- 8 1st mvt. - Assez lent - Modérément animé (10:59)
- 9 2nd mvt. - Assez modéré, mais sans lenteur (6:55)
- 10 3rd mvt. - Animé (7:37)

Nicole Henriot-Schweitzer piano

Boston Symphony Orchestra **Charles Munch**

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