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PIERRE MONTEUX

Tanglewood Volume 2: 1959

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For me the highlights are the 'Italian' Symphony, which is judiciously paced by Monteux in an interpretation that's consistently light on its feet, and the Schumann Introduction and allegro appassionato. Here Rudolf Serkin is the excellent soloist. He is very sensitive in the Introduction – as is the orchestra – while the allegro lives up to its 'appassionato' description. Serkin and Monteux make the music surge onwards with fine impetus.

John Quinn MusicWeb International, 2012 (review excerpt)

Rudolf Serkin was the soloist on August 1 in a program of Mendelssohn and Schumann. Mendelssohn's "Italian" Symphony is not as preposterous as in the "Sunday Evenings with Monteux" boxed set (see Fanfare 31:5), but its first movement is still incredibly fast. Following his own advice to his students, namely to observe an exposition repeat when the composer provides "first-time" bars, Monteux takes the repeat in this performance—the "Italian" is the textbook example of the importance of playing such repeats, since the closing material appears only in the first ending, and if this is skipped the closing in the recapitulation refers to nothing. Serkin is uncharacteristically sloppy in the First Concerto, but on his game in Schumann's op. 92, sometimes referred to as *Konzertstück*. The *Manfred* Overture is more dynamic than lugubrious.

Richard Kaplan Fanfare magazine, 2012 (review excerpt)

Producer's Note

For this second volume of live broadcast recordings by Monteux and the Boston Symphony Orchestra at Tanglewood we revisit a concert held on 1st August, 1959. The concert is presented as performed, minus the lengthy introductions from the radio announcer and, alas for reasons of time, the final Wagner *Prelude and Liebestod* from *Tristan*. I hope that this will appear, along with other recordings from this short series, on a final disc compiled from the different years we are covering.

Once again the sound is big and wide, though more controlled than in 1958, and I've resisted the temptation to narrow it as was necessary in the previous volume. Whilst there is perhaps the hint of a gap in the middle during the orchestral pieces, this is well filled when Serkin takes to the piano. As before, close miking resulted in a slightly over-dry sound quality to the original broadcasts, something I've been able to alleviate in a manner sensitive to the material. Sound quality in both broadcasts was excellent, and has been very well preserved, with one minor tape dropout easily cured. XR remastering has further enhanced the sound, and careful digital noise reduction has lowered tape hiss levels, more prominent in the second half of the programme, without impacting on the clarity of the recording.

Andrew Rose

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monteux

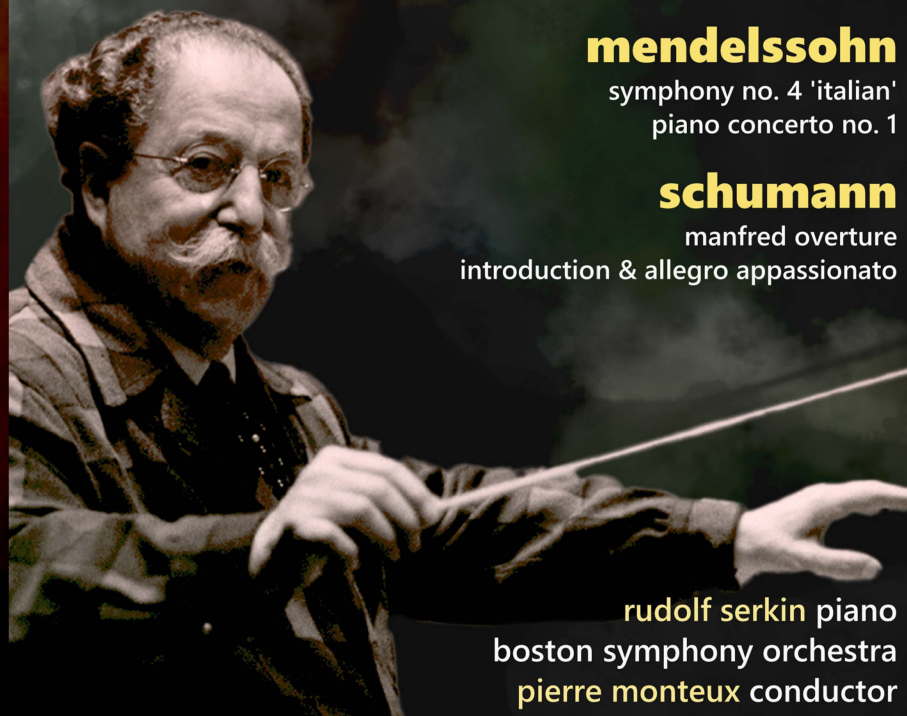
tanglewood volume 2: 1959

mendelssohn

symphony no. 4 'italian'
piano concerto no. 1

schumann

manfred overture
introduction & allegro appassionato



rudolf serkin piano
boston symphony orchestra
pierre monteux conductor

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MONTEUX AT TANGLEWOOD, VOLUME 2: 1959
MONTEUX, SERKIN, BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

monteux

tanglewood 1959

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MENDELSSOHN Symphony No. 4 in A major, Op. 90, 'Italian'

- 1 1st mvt - Allegro vivace (9:48)
- 2 2nd mvt - Andante con moto (5:47)
- 3 3rd mvt - Con moto moderato (6:15)
- 4 4th mvt - Saltarello - Presto (6:26)

MENDELSSOHN Piano Concerto No. 1 in G minor, Op. 25

- 1 1st mvt. - Molto allegro con fuoco (7:00)
- 2 2nd mvt. - Andante (6:58)
- 3 3rd mvt. - Presto - Molto allegro vivace (6:09)

Rudolf Serkin *piano*

- 4 SCHUMANN Manfred, Op. 115 - Overture (12:47)

- 5 SCHUMANN Introduction and Allegro appassionato, Op. 92 (16:26)

Rudolf Serkin *piano*

Boston Symphony Orchestra

Pierre Monteux *conductor*

XR remastering by Andrew Rose

Cover artwork based on a
photograph of Pierre Monteux

Recorded at the Koussevitzky
Music Shed, Tanglewood
1 August, 1959

Total duration: 77:36

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