

LEOPOLD STOKOWSKI

Acoustic, Volume 4

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The great thing about the American symphony orchestra is that, like the American business man, it radiates an exceedingly obvious efficiency. Its precision is akin to that of a first-rate English brass band. Let us first notice some records of the Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra which are obtainable in London. The conductor, Leopold Stokowski, is a masterful and brilliant musician, by birth an Englishman, but thrown into the melting-pot of American citizenship. His orchestra has the advantages of constant rehearsals, hardly any financial worries, and an assuring pension fund for its personnel. It is now one of the finest in the world.

6246. Scheherazade (Rimsky-Korsakov) : *Festival at Bagdad; Young Prince and Young Princess.*

I have said that Stokowski is brilliant, and this is shown by his taking the Festival about twice as fast as Albert Coates does a similar, but not the same, extract from Scheherazade on Columbia L.1429. I prefer Coates's version because he seems to get a truer perspective of Rimsky-Korsakov, and because his technique is there solely to serve the music. Stokowski's version is so efficient that one has to listen to the orchestra more than the music.

6366. Khovantchina (Moussorgsky): *Entr'acte. Finlandia (Sibelius).*

6240. Salome (R. Strauss) *Salome's Dance: Two Parts.*

Stokowski gives a better piece of Moussorgsky's little known opera than does Hamilton Harty on Columbia. Finlandia is, of course, much cut. Salome's Dance is given a vivid performance, but Coates's close association with opera gives his H.M.V. record a more authoritative aspect.

6242. Symphony No. 3 (Brahms): *Allegretto movement.*

Stokowski plays the Brahms movement very cleanly and well, the finely balanced playing giving a charmingly romantic view of the avowed classicist.

John F. Porte, "American Symphony Orchestras" The Gramophone, April 1925

Producer's Note

This fourth and final volume completes our set of Stokowski's complete surviving acoustic recordings, and again I'm grateful to Edward Johnson, Mark Obert-Thorn and Ward Marston for their assistance in sourcing these often rare and, again here in three cases, previously unissued recordings. The use of new pitch stabilisation techniques, along with careful re-equalisation and noise reduction, has once again made great strides in bringing us closer to the sound of The Philadelphia Orchestra at the time of its earliest recordings, and despite the massive limitations of the acoustic horn recording process, this is a delightful listen from start to finish. One final bonus: Henry Eichheim's *Chinese Rhapsody*, never previously issued in the 93 years since it was recorded, appears here to be a world première release.

Andrew Rose

stokowski

acoustic volume 4

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brahms
dvořák
eichheim
hoffstetter
mussorgsky
puccini
rimsky-korsakov
saint-saëns
schubert
sibelius
j. strauss
r. strauss

rare and unreleased acoustic recordings, 1919-1924
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STOKOWSKI, THE PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA

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XR remastering by Andrew Rose

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photograph of Leopold Stokowski

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Mark Obert-Thorn and Ward Marston
for help and providing source material

Full discographic information can be
found on our website

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*Previously unissued

Total duration: 64:44

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- 1 J. STRAUSS On the Beautiful Blue Danube (4:35)
- 2 DVORÁK Symphony No. 9 'From the New World' - 2nd mvt - Largo (4:49)
- 3 RIMSKY-KORSAKOV Scheherazade - Young Prince and Young Princess (4:45)
- 4 RIMSKY-KORSAKOV Scheherazade - Festiva at Baghdad (4:14)
- 5 SAINT-SAËNS Samson et Dalila - Bacchanale (4:16)
- 6 SIBELIUS Finlandia, Op. 26 (3:52)
- 7 BRAHMS Hungarian Dance No. 1 in G minor (3:37)
- 8 BRAHMS Symphony No. 3 - 3rd mvt. - Allegretto (4:16)
- 9 R. STRAUSS Salome - Dance of the Seven Veils (7:32)
- 10 SCHUBERT Moment Musicale No. 3 in F minor (2:18)
- 11 SCHUBERT German Dances, D783 (4:42)
- 12 MUSSORGSKY Khovanschina - Entr'acte (3:54)
- 13 EICHHEIM Oriental Impressions - Chinese Rhapsody (5:49)
- 14 PUCCINI Madama Butterfly - Act II Prelude (Waiting Music) (3:02)
- 15 HOFFSTETTER (attrib. Haydn) Quartet in F - Andante cantabile (3:03)

The Philadelphia Orchestra *Leopold Stokowski*

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