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PIERRE MONTEUX

Tanglewood Volume 3: 1961, part one

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STEREO

The gem of this quartet of historic concert performances is the magnificent Tanglewood concert of August 1, 1959 with the Boston Symphony led by Pierre Monteux and Rudolf Serkin as soloist. His playing of Mendelssohn's *Concerto No 1* is a virtuoso tour-de-force, perhaps a few notes missed, but it really doesn't matter. This is an exciting reading, and he also makes much of the lesser-known Schumann *Introduction and Allegro appassionato*. A vibrant account of Mendelssohn's *Italian* Symphony opens the program, and we also have Schumann's *Manfred* Overture. The concert also included the *Prelude and Liebestod* from *Tristan*, but it would not fit onto the disk. Hopefully it will show up. Andrew Rose's XR remastering is terrific, a big, detailed resonant sound.

R. E. B. Classical CD Review, on volume 2 of this series (PASC473)

Producer's Note

This third volume of Tanglewood recordings moves us decisively into the 1960s, with the first of two parts derived from the Tanglewood concerts that summer. Here we concentrate on concerto works, with one each from Rachmaninoff and Viotti, and a mini near-concerto in Bartók's two-movement Rhapsody for Violin and Orchestra No. 1, with pianist Gary Graffman and violinist Isaac Stern.

Whilst both Bartók and Rachmaninoff are of course both household names, Viotti is less well-known and appears here for the first time on any release on the Pristine label. Born the year before Mozart, this Italian virtuoso violinist lived and performed in a number of major European countries during a perilous time of revolution and war, something that dictated his movements on more than one occasion.

He is best known today for his 29 violin concertos, of which the 22nd in A minor played here, which he wrote in 1792 - the year when revolution forced his relocation from Paris to London - is the most well-known. Indeed the complete series of concertos was not to receive its full recording until 2006, and he would have been almost unknown to the audiences of 1961, save for an LP of this work recorded in the mid-50s by Isaac Stern with The Philadelphia Orchestra under Ormandy, one of only two pieces of music by Viotti available to British LP buyers in the early 1960s. (It is worth noting Stern returned to Philadelphia in the spring of 1961 to record his 16th Concerto.)

The two concertos from which these stereo recordings were taken offer two very different acoustics, for which I can only blame microphone placement. The piano recording is big, wide and lush, whilst the violin concert is far more immediate and direct - in many ways both suit the music perfectly. Sound quality after XR remastering in both cases is excellent, though a little tape hiss remains in the violin concert recordings. I have removed a large number of coughs, most particularly in the superb Rachmaninoff.

Andrew Rose

monteux

tanglewood volume 3: 1961
part one - concertos

rachmaninoff
piano concerto no. 2

bartók
violin rhapsody no. 1

viotti
violin concerto no. 22

gary graffman piano
isaac stern violin
boston symphony orchestra
pierre monteux conductor



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MONTEUX AT TANGLEWOOD, VOLUME 3: 1961 - CONCERTOS
GRAFFMAN, STERN, BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, MONTEUX

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tanglewood 1961 part 1

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RACHMANINOFF Piano Concerto No. 2 in C minor, Op. 18

- 1 1st mvt. - Moderato (10:26)
- 2 2nd mvt. - Adagio sostenuto (11:07)
- 3 3rd mvt. - Allegro scherzando (11:21)

Gary Graffman *piano*

BARTÓK Rhapsody No. 1 for Violin and Orchestra, Sz. 87

- 1 1. Lassú (4:22)
- 2 2. Friss (5:21)

VIOTTI Violin Concerto No. 22 in A minor

- 1 1st mvt. - Moderato (11:06)
- 2 2nd mvt. - Adagio (8:14)
- 3 3rd mvt. - Agitato assai (7:34)

Isaac Stern *violin*

Boston Symphony Orchestra

Pierre Monteux, conductor

XR remastering by Andrew Rose

Cover artwork based on a
photograph of Pierre Monteux

Rachmaninoff Concerto
recorded 19 August, 1961

Bartók Rhapsody & Viotti Concerto
recorded 23 July 1961

Recorded at the Koussevitzky Music
Shed, Tanglewood, Lenox, MA

Total duration: 69:31

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