



Pierre Monteux

At Tanglewood, Volume 4: 1962



Pierre Monteux (1875 -1964) was an amiable giant among conductors. His accomplishments are incredible. He gave the world premieres of Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring*, *Petrushka*, Debussy's *Jeux* and Ravel's *Daphnis and Chloe*. Monteux led the Boston Symphony (1918 - 1924), the Amsterdam Concertgebouw (1924-1934), Orchestre Symphonique de Paris (1929 - 1938), the San Francisco Symphony (1935 - 1952), and in 1961, at the age of 86, became conductor of the London Symphony! In addition, he conducted French repertory at the Metropolitan Opera. He also found time for teaching and his students include many well-known conductors. A remarkable musician indeed. I had the privilege of meeting him (very briefly) when he appeared as guest conductor of the Baltimore Symphony for a single performance January 22, 1958. The program: "*Le Corsaire* overture, Brahms *Symphony No. 3*, Creston's *Symphony No. 2*, and a suite from *Der Rosenkavalier*. I remember him saying during rehearsals, "Play out, let yourselves be heard!" The orchestra loved him, of course, as did the capacity audience. Monteux recorded profusely throughout his career including premiere recordings of many major works. On this admirable Pristine Audio series we hear performances at Tanglewood ... I look forward to future issues in this fine series.

R. E. B. Classical CD Review (*excerpt from review of Volume 1*)

Producer's Note

The summer of 1962 saw Monteux back once more at Tanglewood for six guest appearances with the Boston Symphony Orchestra. The following year, at the age of 88, he made two final appearances with the BSO at Tanglewood, just a few months before his final concert with the orchestra at Boston's Symphony Hall on 21 December 1963.

The 1962 concerts started with two identical programmes, of which these recordings were taken from the second concert. The programme began with an orchestrated organ work by Bach, followed by the Beethoven, an interval, and the Strauss presented here. The programme suggests that a last minute change due to illness meant the Bach replaced vocal music from Purcell and Weber - the Beethoven and Strauss were always planned here.

Of these, the Beethoven is a lovely performance, but it is perhaps *Ein Heldenleben* which stands out as particularly inspired and rightly brings the house down after some brilliant playing and well-judged pacing. Naturally the Boston Symphony is excellent throughout. Sound quality on these XR remasters of excellent if originally slightly hard-sounding stereo source recordings is truly superb - an ongoing improvement from the previous years' recordings can be clearly heard and enjoyed.

Andrew Rose



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MONTEUX AT TANGLEWOOD, VOLUME 4: 1962
MONTEUX, BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

monteux

tanglewood 1962

COMPACT
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PASC 481
STEREO

MONTEUX AT TANGLEWOOD, VOLUME 4: 1962
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BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 2 in D major, Op. 36

- 1 1st mvt - Adagio molto - Allegro con brio (9:50)
- 2 2nd mvt - Larghetto (10:51)
- 3 3rd mvt - Scherzo. Allegro - Trio (3:40)
- 4 4th mvt - Allegro molto (6:40)

R. STRAUSS Ein Heldenleben, Op. 40

- 1 1. Der Held (*The Hero*) (4:04)
- 2 2. Des Helden Widersacher (*The Hero's Adversaries*) (3:10)
- 3 3. Des Helden Gefährtin (*The Hero's Female Companion*) (10:32)
- 4 4. Des Helden Walstatt (*The Hero's Battlefield*) (8:30)
- 5 5. Des Helden Friedenswerke (*The Hero's Works of Peace*) (4:49)
- 6 6. Des Helden Weltflucht und Vollendung
(*The Hero's Retreat from the World and Consummation*) (10:24)

Boston Symphony Orchestra

Pierre Monteux, conductor

XR remastering by Andrew Rose

Cover artwork based on a
photograph of Pierre Monteux

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Shed, Tanglewood, Lenox, MA
29 July, 1962

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