



Stokowski

Wartime NBC Premières



Aaron Copland's "Short Symphony" made its US debut under Stokowski's direction on 9 January 1944. Copland wrote: "The Symphony's preoccupation is with complex rhythms, combined with clear textures. The work is in three movements played without a pause. The first is scherzo-like in character. The second is in three brief sections with a song-like middle part and the finale is once again bright in colour and rhythmically intricate."

Richard Mohaupt was born in Germany in 1904 but his work as a composer in the 1930s fell foul of the Nazis, so he emigrated to America just before the war. His three-movement "Concerto for Orchestra based on Red Army Songs" has been described as "the composer's own heart-felt tribute to the valour of the Russian army," its thematic material being mainly based on Russian army songs of the 1917 revolutionary period.

Paul Lavalle was born in New York in 1908 and following his music studies he became a clarinetist for NBC in 1933. His breezy "Symphonic Rhumba" evokes happy memories of a sojourn in Cuba. He played in the NBC Symphony when Stokowski conducted it and must have been delighted that the great maestro was willing to let his hair down!

Howard Hanson's 4th Symphony of 1943 is an orchestral "Requiem" written 'In Memory of my beloved Father.' The movements are (1) Kyrie Eleison; (2) Requiescat; (3) Dies Irae; (4) Lux Aeterna. Stokowski's premiere of the work resulted in Hanson being awarded the Pulitzer Prize and in 1972 the composer conveyed his own gratitude to Stokowski on the maestro's 90th birthday by recalling his "magnificent performance" of this work.

Daniele Amfitheatrof was born in Russia in 1901 and following his music studies had a highly successful European career. In 1937 he was appointed the Minneapolis Symphony's associate conductor and when the war broke out decided to stay in America, becoming the composer of many fine film scores. "De profundis clamavi" ("Out of the Depths, I've cried") from 1944 was a dramatic tribute to those losing their lives across the seas. Stokowski and his players rose to the occasion with a passionate reading of a work that fully deserves its CD debut here.

George Antheil was born in America in 1900 and his eventual autobiography was entitled *The Bad Boy of Music* due to his reputation as an extreme exponent of the *avant-garde*. He wrote that the war deeply influenced his 4th symphony with the news from Stalingrad, Africa and the Pacific being reflected throughout the entire work, the finale heralding eventual victory.

Arnold Schoenberg found in Stokowski the foremost presenter of his main orchestral works with several US and World Premieres. He listened to his Piano Concerto in its 1944 broadcast at his home in Los Angeles and was highly delighted. Virgil Thomson's *Herald Tribune* review referred to the work as being "poetical and reflective" while adding that "one cannot be too grateful to Mr. Stokowski for giving himself the trouble to prepare it and for paying his radio listeners the compliment of presuming their interest." To those radio listeners of 1944 can be added the CD listeners of today, as possibly for the first time they'll hear this difficult work in its very first performance of all.

Edward Johnson



PASC 536

copland short symphony
mohaupt concerto for orchestra
lavalle symphonic rhumba
hanson symphony no. 4
amfitheatrof de profundis clamavi
antheil symphony no. 4
schoenberg piano concerto
eduard steuermann piano

nbc symphony orchestra
live broadcast recordings, 1942-1944



stokowski

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COPLAND Short Symphony (Symphony No. 2)

- 1 1st mvt. - quarter note = 144 (4:31)
- 2 2nd mvt. - half note = 44 (4:51)
- 3 3rd mvt. - quarter note = 144 (6:04)

Broadcast of 9 January 1944 - US Première

MOHAUPT Concerto for Orchestra

based on Red Army Songs

- 4 1st mvt. - Allegro (6:39)
- 5 2nd mvt. - Largo (8:30)
- 6 3rd mvt. - Vivace (6:29)

Broadcast of 19 December 1943 - World première

7 LAVALLE Symphonic Rhumba (5:21)

Broadcast of 6 December 1942 - World première

HANSON Symphony No. 4, 'Requiem' Op. 34

- 8 1st mvt. - Kyrie: Andante inquieto (7:08)
- 9 2nd mvt. - Requiſcat: Largo (4:38)
- 10 3rd mvt. - Dies irae: Presto (2:14)
- 11 4th mvt. - Lux aeterna: Largo pastorale (7:57)

Broadcast of 2 January 1944 - Radio première

XR remastering by Andrew Rose

Cover artwork based on a photograph of Aaron Copland and Leopold Stokowski in 1942

Total duration: 2 hr 16:23

1 AMFITHEATROF De profundis clamavi (19:53)

Broadcast of 20 February 1944 - World première

ANTHEIL Symphony No. 4, '1942' W.177

- 2 1st mvt. - Moderato - Allegretto (10:11)
- 3 2nd mvt. - Allegro (8:46)
- 4 3rd mvt. - Scherzo: Presto (4:29)
- 5 4th mvt. - Allegro non troppo (8:37)

Broadcast of 13 February 1944 - World première

6 STOKOWSKI Introduction to Schoenberg Piano Concerto (0:25)

SCHOENBERG Piano Concerto Op. 42

- 7 1st mvt. - Andante (4:37)
- 8 2nd mvt. - Molto allegro (2:36)
- 9 3rd mvt. - Adagio (6:15)
- 10 4th mvt. - Giocoso (Moderato) (6:11)

Eduard Steuermann *piano*

Broadcast of 6 February 1944 - World première

NBC Symphony Orchestra

conducted by Leopold Stokowski

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