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MARGUERITE LONG

PLAYS FAURÉ

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"I carry great memories of the recording of the Second Quartet of Fauré which I made with my friends Jacques Thibaud, Maurice Vieux and Pierre Fournier. We had played it in public a week beforehand for the Société des Amis de Fauré. Maurice Maréchal had played the cello. It was on the tragic morning of the 10th May 1940 that the recording was due to take place. Bombs had been falling on Paris all night. At eight o'clock I switched on the radio and heard: 'M. Frossard [*a Minister at the time*] is speaking to you.' Silence, then: 'Holland has been invaded.'

Roger Thibaud, Jacques' son, was in the front line in this area. I feared the worst when I went to fetch Jacques Thibaud to go off to the Pathé-Marconi studios in the Rue Albert at the far end of Paris. He already knew the unhappy news.

Overcoming our mortal fear with that courage that artists so need, we started our recording in an extraordinary atmosphere. Never had Thibaud played so well. We were all overwhelmed. Swept up by the music beyond the reach of the present time, we succeeded in the tour de force of recording, without any lapse, the entire Quartet in one day. It was sublime. After the astonishing Quartet, where the piano assumes the leading role, the red light went out and Jacques Thibaud, whose humour had not left him, put his hand in his waistcoat pocket, took a two sous coin from it, put it on the piano and said to me: 'What you have just done there pays well, my dear Marguerite.' Poor, dear Jacques, he had no inkling that, two days later on the 12 May, destiny was to take his son from him.

When, many years later, I played this record to my friend Gilels, the great Russian pianist, I could not hide my emotion. He was still enraptured, seeking words to express his feelings, and finally he said slowly: 'That, Madame, is one of life's great moments.'

Marguerite Long *At The Piano with Fauré, (1963, René Julliard)*
(Translated by Olive Senior-Ellis, Kahn & Averill, London 1981)

Recording and restoration notes

Marguerite Long is perhaps the French pianist most closely associated with the music of Gabriel Fauré - a virtuoso who studied and worked for a decade with the composer and dedicated her long and successful career to the promotion of his (among others) music. The three recordings here span some 16 years and reach almost to the end of her recording career with respect to the composer - she went on to make a small number of solo records in 1957.

It has been particularly rewarding to restore the 1940 recording described above which, in its original state, sounded particularly dim and boxy but, with XR remastering, has blossomed into a glorious rendition of this fine work which only occasionally shows its age against the other two. The 1956 recording was, as one might expect, a much more straightforward project, though this too has been considerably enhanced, with much greater depth to be found than originally expected, as well as a fine treble extension.

Long regarded the *Ballade* as her own, and recorded it five times. The 1950 recording with Cluytens was remade in 1952 but it seems has appeared only on CD - meanwhile the 1950 recording shows its "made for 78s" origin with some rather crude side changes and sonic variations between the sides, despite being sourced from LP, which I've had to deal with. Originally paired with Ravel's Concerto in G major, the release was awarded the *Grand Prix de l'Académie du Disque Français* in 1953. **AR**

FULL PROGRAMME NOTES CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM

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PRISTINE
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MARGUERITE LONG

PLAYS
FAURÉ

PIANO QUARTETS BALLADE

WITH
TRIO PASQUIER
JACQUES THIBAUD
MAURICE VIEUX
PIERRE FOURNIER
ORCHESTRE DE LA SOCIÉTÉ DES
CONCERTS DU CONSERVATOIRE
ANDRÉ CLUYTENS

RECORDED IN 1940, 1950 & 1956

Marguerite Long plays Fauré

FAURÉ Piano Quartet No. 1 in C minor OP. 15

- 1 1st mvt. - *Allegro molto moderato* (10:05)
- 2 2nd mvt. - *Scherzo* (5:35)
- 3 3rd mvt. - *Adagio* (7:39)
- 4 4th mvt. - *Allegro molto* (8:37)

TRIO PASQUIER

Jean Pasquier, violin
Pierre Pasquier, viola
Etienne Pasquier, cello

FAURÉ Piano Quartet No. 2 in G minor OP. 45

- 5 1st mvt. - *Allegro molto moderato* (12:21)
- 6 2nd mvt. - *Allegro molto* (3:15)
- 7 3rd mvt. - *Adagio non troppo* (9:25)
- 8 4th mvt. - *Allegro molto* (8:50)

Jacques Thibaud, violin
Maurice Vieux, viola
Pierre Fournier, cello

FAURÉ Ballade for Piano and Orchestra OP. 19 (14:11)

Orchestre de la Société des Concerts du Conservatoire
conductor André Cluytens

Marguerite Long, piano

XR remastering by **Andrew Rose**

Cover artwork based on a photograph
of **Marguerite Long**

Piano Quartet No. 1

Recorded Maison de la Mutualité,
Paris, 13 February 1956
Issued as Columbia FC1057

Piano Quartet No. 2

Recorded Studio Albert,
Paris, 10 May 1940
Issued as Voix de son maître DB5103-5106
Matrix Nos 2LA3350-3357

Ballade

Recorded Théâtre des Champs-Élysées,
Paris, 30 October 1950
Issued as Columbia 78s: LFX1000-1001
Matrix Nos: CLX 2802-5
Issued as Columbia LP: FCX169

Total duration: **79:58**

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