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PACM 095

# FELIX SALMOND

*plays Beethoven & Grieg Cello Sonatas*

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#### Producer's Note

British cellist Felix Salmond (1888-1952) was born into a musical family. His father was a baritone and his mother a pianist who had studied under Clara Schumann. He began formal cello studies at the age of 12, entered the Royal Academy of Music at 16 and went on to study at the Brussels Conservatory at 19. The following year, he made his debut at Bechstein Hall in London, in a program which included Frank Bridge's Fantasy Trio with the composer as violist and Salmond's mother at the piano.

Salmond's attempt to build an international career was interrupted by World War I. After its conclusion, he participated in the first performance of Elgar's String Quartet. As a result, Elgar chose him to give the première of his Cello Concerto under the composer's direction in 1919. The performance turned out to be a debacle. Albert Coates, who was conducting the rest of the concert, used up most of Elgar's scheduled rehearsal time, leading the angered composer to consider withdrawing the work. For Salmond's sake, he went on with the performance; but the critics savaged the orchestra's poor execution. Wounded by the experience, Salmond would never play or teach the concerto outside of England. In 1922, he left for America, which would become his home base for the rest of his life.

It was perhaps as a pedagogue that Salmond left his most enduring legacy. He began teaching at Juilliard in 1924, where he stayed until his death, and was appointed head of the cello department at the Curtis Institute the following year (a post from which he abruptly resigned in 1942 when the Institute's new director, Efreim Zimbalist, engaged Emanuel Feuermann to join the faculty without having consulted Salmond). His pupils included Leonard Rose, Bernard Greenhouse, Frank Miller, Alan Shulman, Daniel Saidenberg and Orlando Cole.

Salmond's discography is comparatively small. After a few acoustic Vocalions made in England before his emigration, he was signed by American Columbia, where he benefitted from the recent defection of their star cellist, Pablo Casals, to the rival Victor label. This release presents most of his electric commercial recordings, which ended in 1930, even though he was to continue performing for another two decades. It features two of the three album sets that Columbia issued, the third being the Schubert B-flat Piano Trio with Myra Hess and Jelly D'Aranyi (Pristine PACM 083).

The present transfers were made from first edition American Columbia "Viva-Tonal" pressings, the quietest form of issue for these recordings. Some of the tracks, particularly the earliest ones, suffer from distant miking and have an inherently smaller signal-to-noise ratio than others.

Mark Obert-Thorn

FULL PROGRAMME NOTES CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT [WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM](http://WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM)  
SARL Pristine Audio, 144 Rue de l'Eglise, 24610 St. Méard de Gurçon, France

# Felix Salmond

BEETHOVEN Cello Sonata No. 3  
GRIEG Cello Sonata

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Short works by Bridge, Bruch, Glazunov  
Grieg, Popper and Saint-Saëns

with Simeon Rumschisky, piano



Studio recordings, 1926-1929

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**BEETHOVEN Cello Sonata No. 3 in A major, Op. 69**

- 1 1st Mvt. - Allegro ma non tanto (9:19)
- 2 2nd Mvt. - Scherzo (Allegro molto) (5:13)
- 3 3rd Mvt. - Adagio cantabile; Allegro vivace (8:50)  
Recorded 18 January and 15 February 1926 in New York City  
Matrix nos.: W 98207-3, 98208-1, 98209-3, 98210-1, 98225-3 & 98239-1  
First issued on Columbia 67187-D through 67189-D in Set 38

4 BRUCH - Kol Nidrei, Op. 47 (8:22)  
Recorded 5 and 17 June 1928 in New York City. Matrix nos.: W 98550-1 & 98551-3. First issued on Columbia 50073-D

5 TRADITIONAL (arr. O'Connor-Morris) - Londonderry Air (3:47)  
Recorded 15 February 1926 in New York City. Matrix no.: W 98240-1. First issued on Columbia 7107-M

6 SAINT-SAËNS - The Swan (from Carnival of the Animals) (2:47)  
Recorded 15 March 1926 in New York City. Matrix no.: W 98242-3. First issued on Columbia 7107-M

7 GLAZUNOV - Serenade Espagnole, Op. 20, No. 2 (2:54)  
Recorded 19 April 1926 in New York City. Matrix no.: W 98234-5. First issued on Columbia 7117-M

8 BRIDGE - Mélodie (3:52)  
Recorded 20 May 1929 in New York City. Matrix no.: W 98660-2. First issued on Columbia 50156-D

9 POPPER - Gavotte in D major (3:42)  
Recorded 15 June 1928 in New York City. Matrix no.: W 98553-2. First issued on Columbia 50156-D

10 GRIEG - To Spring, Op. 43, No. 6 (3:11)  
Recorded 25 October 1927 in New York City. Matrix no.: W 98401-6. First issued on Columbia 67363-D in Set 78

**GRIEG Cello Sonata in A minor, Op. 36**

- 1 1st Mvt. - Allegro agitato (9:24)
- 2 2nd Mvt. - Andante molto tranquillo (5:55)
- 3 3rd Mvt. - Allegro; Allegro molto e marcato (12:09)  
Recorded 13 and 17 May 1927 in New York City  
Matrix nos.: W 98345-3, 98346-2, 98347-1, 98348-1, 98349-2, 98350-3 & 98351-4  
First issued on Columbia 67360-D through 67363-D in Set 78

Felix Salmond *cello*  
Simeon Rumschisky *piano*



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Restoration Engineer:  
Mark Obert-Thorn

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