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## Albert Spalding plays Beethoven

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**Albert Spalding** (August 15, 1888 – May 26, 1953) was born in Chicago to the family that owned the Spalding Sporting Goods Company. He studied the violin privately in New York City and Florence, and at the conservatories in Paris and Bologna; the latter graduated him with honors when he was fourteen. Following his debut in Paris in 1906, he appeared successfully in London and Vienna. His first American appearance as soloist came with the New York Symphony in 1908. During World War I, Spalding served in the U.S. Army Air Corps and would eventually be awarded the Cross of the Crown of Italy.

In 1919, not long after his return to the United States, he married Mary Vanderhoef Pyle; Jacques Thibaud provided the music for the ceremony. In 1920, Spalding appeared on the European tour of the New York Symphony. In 1922, he became the first American violinist to appear with the Paris Conservatory Orchestra; a year later he was the first American to serve on a jury at the Paris Conservatory. In February 1941, he premiered the violin concerto of Samuel Barber.

Upon the United States' involvement in World War II, Spalding accepted an assignment with the Office of Strategic Services. He was posted to London and North Africa until he was ordered to Naples, where he gave a legendary concert to thousands of terrified refugees stranded in a cave during a bombing raid.

In 1950, Spalding announced his retirement from the concert stage. Thereafter, he taught master classes at Boston University College of Music and, in the winter months, at Florida State University. He died in New York in 1953, at the age of 64.

*Notes adapted from Wikipedia*

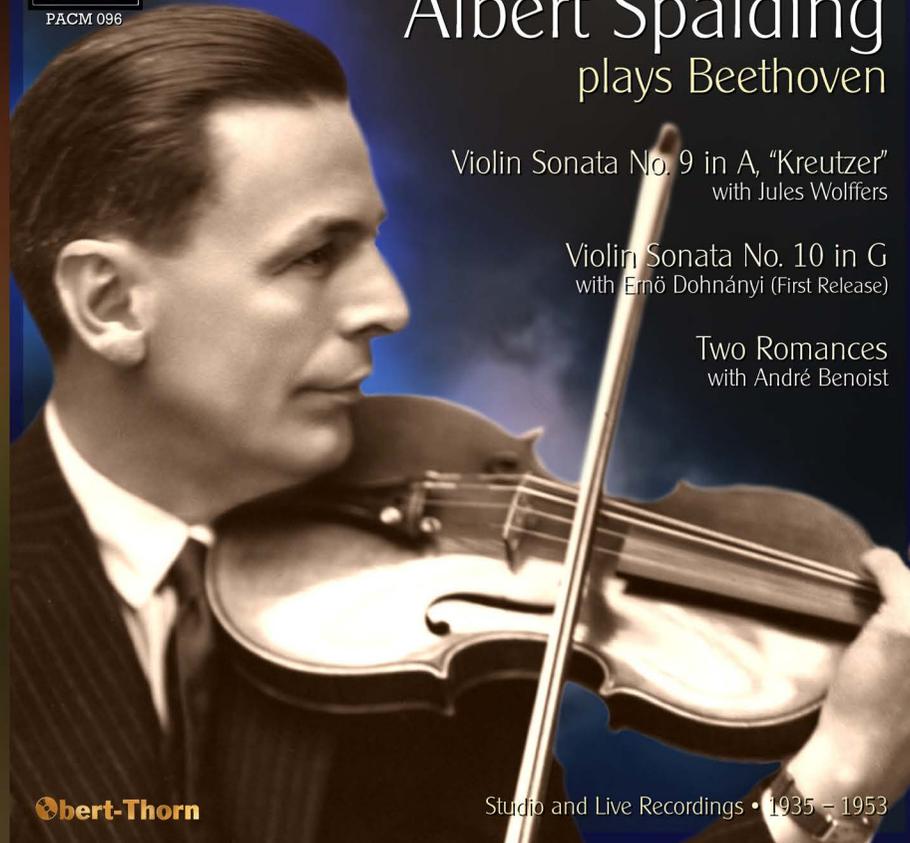
### Producer's Note

Spalding's recording career can be roughly divided into three periods. For two decades beginning in the acoustic era, he was a mainstay of the Edison catalog, with a brief defection to Brunswick, recording short works. He made a series of more substantial recordings for Victor between 1934 and 1941, including sonatas by Tartini, Handel, Mozart, Brahms and Franck, as well as concertos by Mozart, Spohr and Mendelssohn and the two Beethoven Romances presented here, with the G major making its first appearance since the 78 rpm era.

After his 1950 retirement from concertizing, Spalding made several LPs for the Remington label, including recordings with Ernő Dohnányi of the three Brahms Violin Sonatas (Pristine PACM 078) and Dohnányi's own sonata (PASC 381). Following his death, selections from some of his recorded recitals at Boston University were issued on the Allegro and Halo labels. These discs are even scarcer than his Remingtons, with the Allegro LP of the "Kreutzer" (reissued here for the first time) being particularly rare.

The Beethoven Op. 96 sonata, which sees its first release here, comes from a joint recital given with Dohnányi at Florida State University just four months before the violinist's death. While one might wish that both of the sonatas had been recorded when the violinist was more in his prime, it is valuable to hear, however imperfectly, the conceptions of a legendary artist who was truly a "violinist's violinist".

Mark Obert-Thorn



## Albert Spalding plays Beethoven

Violin Sonata No. 9 in A, "Kreutzer"  
with Jules Wolfers

Violin Sonata No. 10 in G  
with Ernő Dohnányi (First Release)

Two Romances  
with André Benoist

Obert-Thorn

Studio and Live Recordings • 1935 – 1953

ALBERT SPALDING *plays* Beethoven❑ **Romance in G major, Op. 40** (6:41)André Benoist *piano*Recorded 11 March & \*22 April 1935 in RCA Studio No. 2, New York City  
Matrix nos.: BS 89307-3\* & 89308-1  
First issued on Victor 1788❑ **Romance in F major, Op. 50** (8:11)André Benoist *piano*Recorded 11 March 1935 in RCA Studio No. 2, New York City  
Matrix nos.: CS 89309-1 & 89310-1  
First issued on Victor 14579**Violin Sonata No. 9 in A major, Op 47, "Kreutzer"**

❑ 1st mvt. - Adagio sostenuto; Presto (10:51)

❑ 2nd mvt. - Andante con variazioni (13:05)

❑ 3rd mvt. - Finale: Presto (6:46)

Jules Wolfers *piano*Recorded 26 May 1952 at Boston University  
First issued on Allegro 1675**Violin Sonata No. 10 in G major, Op. 96**

❑ 1st mvt. - Allegro moderato (9:35)

❑ 2nd mvt. - Adagio espressivo (5:53)

❑ 3rd mvt. - Scherzo: Allegro (1:42)

❑ 4th mvt. - Poco allegretto (8:14)

Ernö Dohnányi *piano*Recorded 16 January 1953 at Florida State University, Tallahassee  
Previously unissuedProducer and Audio Restoration  
Engineer: Mark Obert-ThornSpecial thanks to Dave Hermann  
for providing source materialCover artwork based on a  
photograph of Albert Spalding

Total duration: 70:58

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Albert Spalding *violin*