

COMPACT
disc
DIGITAL AUDIO
PACO 114

WAGNER

The Potted Ring, Volume 2

Pristine
XR

Producer's Note

The present release is the second of three which will bring together the 122 78 rpm sides of extended excerpts from Wagner's tetralogy which His Master's Voice recorded in London, Berlin and Vienna between 1926 and 1932. The scope of this project centers around the Ring albums – not every disc of music from the Ring which HMV issued during this period. The first volume (PACO 107) gathered together excerpts from *Das Rheingold* and *Die Walküre*; the present set focuses on Melchior's *Siegfried* recordings; and the final one will feature scenes from *Götterdämmerung*, as well as an appendix featuring alternate recordings from the series and an outline of motives from the Ring cycle.

The *Siegfried* recordings have a particularly convoluted history in the "Potted Ring" saga. Initially, HMV released an album of eight discs, combining two from *Das Rheingold* (featured in Volume 1 of our series) with six from *Siegfried*, in recordings made between June, 1927 and April, 1928. This set included the Wotan/Erda duet featured here (the only "Potted Ring" recordings to come from Vienna), as well as six sides with Rudolf Laubenthal as Siegfried. In three of these, he was joined by Frida Leider in excerpts from the final duet. (Oddly, a disc with an orchestral version of the "Forest Murmurs" led by Leo Blech was included along with Laubenthal's vocal excerpts from the same scene.)

Melchior's absence from these sides can be explained by the fact that he did not make his first recordings for the HMV labels until June, 1928. In May of the following year, sessions were scheduled in London for him to record *Siegfried* selections under Albert Coates, including re-recordings of material already covered in Laubenthal's solo sides. These were collected into a second, five disc volume on HMV. Further recordings in May, 1930 ("Selige Öde" and "Das ist kein Mann") under Robert Heger were issued on two single discs. In America, Victor collected these, the 1929 recordings and the unduplicated 1927-28 Siegfried sides from the first volume in a ten-disc set.

Further recordings of excerpts from Acts 1 and 2 in May, 1931 and the Act 3 duet in May, 1932, all under Heger, were issued as separate volumes both in Europe and America. Ultimately, HMV released a 19-disc set of the 37 sides presented here, although it was never offered this way on Victor. Fortunately for posterity, Melchior's unsurpassed assumption of the rôle was captured nearly complete at the height of his considerable powers in these recordings.

The sources for the transfers were multiple copies of American Victor editions: prewar "Z" and "Gold" label pressings, as well as a particularly quiet postwar album, for the 1928-30 recordings; "Z" and "Gold" editions for the 1931 recordings; and two sets of "Z" pressings for the 1932 final scene. The progress of electrical recording during this period can be traced through the variable sound of the originals, from the dim Vienna sides of 1928 and the occasionally strident and overloaded London sessions of 1929, to the warm, detailed sound obtained in Abbey Road in 1932.

Mark Obert-Thorn

WAGNER

THE POTTED RING

VOLUME TWO: SIEGFRIED

LAURITZ MELCHIOR

FLORENCE EASTON

FRIEDRICH SCHORR

HEINRICH TESSMER

EDUARD HABICH

ALBERT REISS

RUDOLF BOCKELMANN

EMIL SCHIPPER

MARIA OLSZEWSKA

NORA GRUHN

ROBERT HEGER

ALBERT COATES

KARL ALWIN

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE, COVENT GARDEN

VIENNA STATE OPERA ORCHESTRA

HMV STUDIO RECORDINGS, 1928-1932

PRISTINE
AUDIO

PACO 114



Obert-Thorn

WAGNER *The Potted Ring, Volume 2: Siegfried*

CD 1

- 1 Act 1 - Prelude (3:24)
- 2 Zwangwolle Plage! (4:13)
- 3 Hoiho! Hoiho! Hau ein! Hau ein! (3:39)
- 4 Als zullendes Kind zog ich dich auf (8:02)
- 5 Soll ich der Kunde glauben (1:29)
- 6 Aus dem Wald fort (2:21)
- 7 Heil dir, weiser Schmied! (3:58)
- 8 Dein Haupt pfänd' ich (8:17)
- 9 Fühltest du nie im finstren Wald (4:22)
- 10 Nothung! Nothung! Neidliches Schwert! (7:07)
- 11 Hoho! Hoho! Hahei! Schmiede, mein Hammer (5:17)

- 12 Act 2 - In Wald und Nacht (2:04)
- 13 Zur Neidhöhle fuhr ich bei Nacht (2:43)
- 14 Deine Hand hieltest du vom Hort? (4:35)
- 15 Daß der mein Vater nicht ist (4:27)
- 16 Du holdes Voglein! (4:36)
- 17 Haha! Da hätte mein Lied (4:23)
- 18 Wohin schleichst du eilig und schlau (3:56)

CD 2

- 1 Da lieg auch du, dunkler Wurm! (3:53)
- 2 Gönnstest du mir wohl ein gut Gesell? (0:44)
- 3 Hei! Siegfried erschlug nun den schlimmen Zwerg! (3:28)

- 4 Act 3 - Prelude (2:17)
- 5 Wache, Wala! (1:38)
- 6 Stark ruft das Lied (8:46)
- 7 Dir Unweisen ruf' ich ins Ohr (3:34)
- 8 Kennstest du mich, kühner Sproß (4:27)
- 9 Zieh hin! (1:08)
- 10 Siegfried mounts the rocky height (3:06)
- 11 Selige Öde auf sonniger Höh! (4:51)
- 12 Das ist kein Mann! (6:50)
- 13 Heil dir, Sonne! (4:47)
- 14 O Siegfried! Siegfried! (12:31)
- 15 Ewig war ich (3:29)
- 16 Dich lieb' ich (2:40)
- 17 Ob jetzt ich dein? (4:08)

Producer and Audio Restoration
Engineer: Mark Obert-Thorn

Cover artwork based on a photograph
of Lauritz Melchior as Siegfried

Recorded in London and Berlin, 1928-1932

Due to the varied and complex nature of this recording's origin, there is insufficient space to notate the details of the performers, recording venues and dates, or catalogue and matrix numbers here without rendering the details illegibly small. All of this information, together with further details on the recordings and links to analytical notes and a full score can be found online at:
www.pristineclassical.com/paco114.html

Total duration: 2hr 31:10

For a full catalogue visit
www.pristineclassical.com
or call : (00) 33 979 622713

© 2014 Pristine Audio

