

IMPRESSIONS OF ALBERT SAMMONS

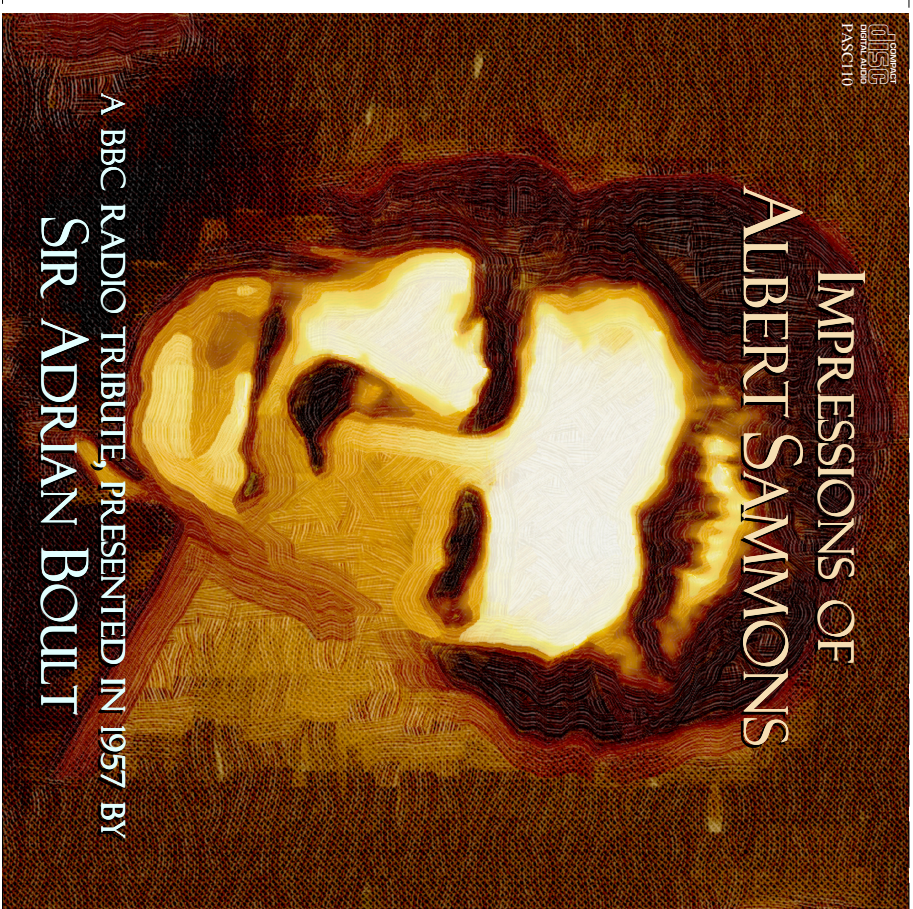
BY **SIR ADRIAN BOULT**

A BBC RADIO BROADCAST

1	Introduction and Elgar Violin Concerto	8:02
2	Delius Violin Concerto	4:09
3	Mozart Sinfonia Concertante	4:27
4	Fauré Violin Sonata No.1	5:21
5	Rubbra Violin Sonata No. 2	4:51
6	Dvorak Songs My Mother Taught Me	2:14
7	Conclusion	0:42

First broadcast on the BBC Home Service in 1957, recorded onto private acetate 33rpm LP disc.
Transfer and XR remastering by Andrew Rose at Pristine Audio, August 2007
Cover artwork based on a photograph of Albert Sammons
Total duration: 29:46 © 2007 Pristine Audio.

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BY SIR ADRIAN BOULT

Sir Adrian Cedric Boulton CH (8 April 1889 – 22 February 1983) was an English conductor.

Boulton was born in Chester and educated at Westminster School and Christ Church, Oxford. As a schoolboy, he was introduced to the world of music by a family friend, Frank Schuster, who was a friend of Edward Elgar and introduced the young Boulton to the composer around 1905.[1]

He completed his musical education at the Leipzig Conservatory where he learnt to conduct by watching the eminent Hungarian conductor Arthur Nikisch. He sang in choral festivals and at the Leeds Festival of 1913, where he went to watch Nikisch conduct, and made the acquaintance of George Butterworth and other British composers.

During World War I he was employed at the War Office, and whilst there in 1918 planned a series of concerts with the London Symphony Orchestra, which included several important recent British works: Gustav Holst's *The Planets*, of which he gave the first private performance, A London Symphony by Ralph Vaughan Williams, of which he gave the first performance of the revised version, and Elgar's *Symphony No. 2* which had fallen into neglect. Elgar wrote to him and said he felt sure the future of his music was safe in Boulton's hands. In this way Boulton laid the foundations for a long career as a champion of twentieth century English music. As one example, Vaughan Williams dedicated *Job*, A *Masque for Dancing* to Boulton in the mid-1930s, several years after the actual première of the work.

In this radio programme, broadcast on the BBC Home Service in later 1957, Boulton looks back at the life of one of the greatest British violinists, Albert Sammons, who died on 24th August of that year, through reminiscences and recordings. Sammons had retired from the concert stage a decade earlier through ill health, and thus these recordings date largely from his heyday in the 30's and 40's.

The examples chosen include major English violin concertos, which both Sammons and Boulton championed throughout their careers - the Delius concerto was written for Sammons, who performed it with Boulton for its première recording. We also hear Sammons alongside another stalwart of the era, the violist Lionel Tertis, in Mozart's *Sinfonia Concertante*, before exploring the chamber music of Fauré and Rubbra and an arrangement of a Dvorak song.

The programme is presented as broadcast, including opening and closing announcements, as recorded onto a specially made acetate LP disc. In restoring this I've dealt with much of the surface noise on the record, though some remains at times, and have endeavoured to 'dust off' Sir Adrian's spoken introductions with some re-equalisation. The musical excerpts remain largely as broadcast, and include a couple of minor dropouts, though I have tackled some of the nastier sections of the original 78rpm discs used to make the programme.