

DISC  
DIGITAL AUDIO  
PASC15

# TOSCANINI

CONDUCTS LA SCALA ORCHESTRA  
**AT THE VENICE FESTIVAL, 1949**

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[1] Cherubini - Anacréon Overture (10:03)

[1] Franck - Les Éolides (10:31)

Beethoven: Symphony No. 6 in F,  
Op. 68, "Pastoral"

[2] Smetana - The Moldau  
(Má vlast: 2. Vltava, B.11) (11:27)

[2] 1st mvt. - Allegro ma non troppo:  
*Awakenings of cheerful feelings upon arrival  
in the country* (9:02)

[3] R. Strauss - Don Juan, Op. 20 (17:47)

[3] 2nd mvt. - Andante molto mosso:

[4] Wagner - Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg:  
Prelude, Act I (9:47)

*By the brook* (11:40)

Part Two - duration: 49:32

[4] 3rd mvt. - Allegro

*Merry gathering of country folk* (5:01)

[5] 4th mvt. - Allegro:

*Thunderstorm; Storm* (3:44)

[6] 5th mvt. - Allegretto:

Original source material: Open reel tape dub of acetate discs, believed to have been recorded from AM radio broadcast of this concert. Note that the frequency range and dynamic range of the recording has been somewhat limited by the nature of the radio transmission. Some parts of the disc recordings also exhibit quite high noise levels, which I have attempted to control as much as possible.

*Shepherd's Song; happy and thankful feelings  
after the storm* (9:14)

Live performance at La Fenice, Venice, 3rd September 1949.  
This is the only known recording of Toscanini in concert at the 1949 Venice Festival. It is believed to be previously unissued.

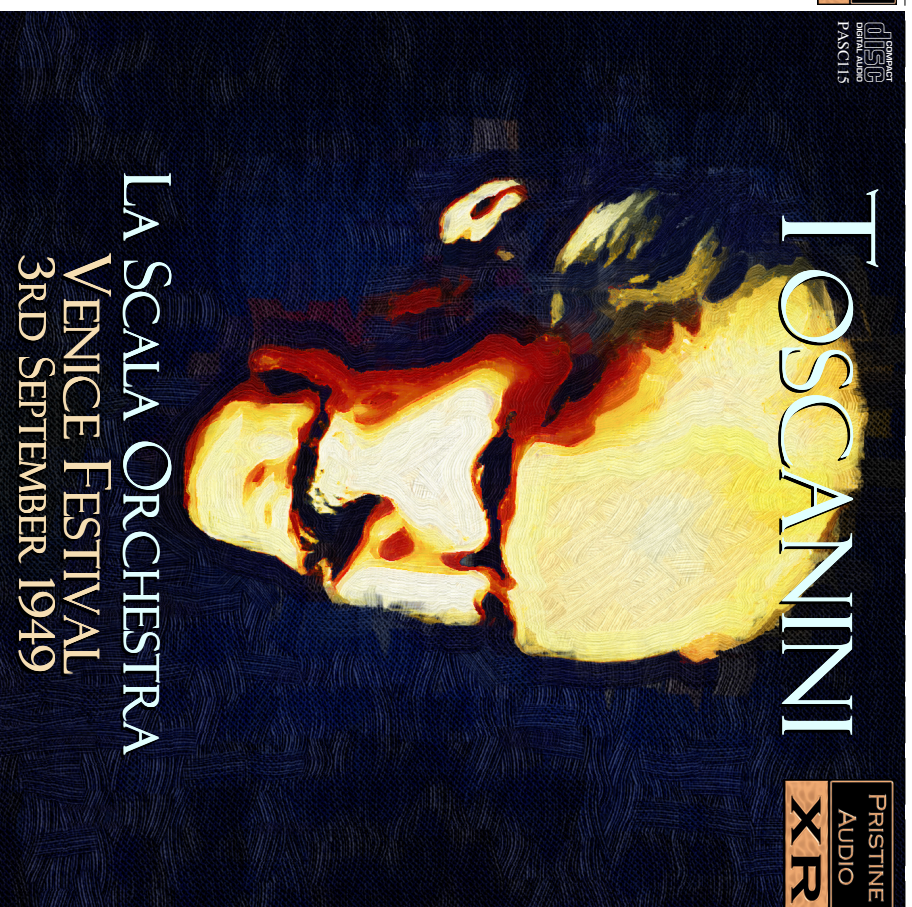
Part One - duration: 48:44

Transfer and XR remastering by Andrew Rose at Pristine Audio, September 2007 - June 2008

Cover artwork based on a photograph of Arturo Toscanini

Total duration: 1 hr 38:16 ©2008 Pristine Audio.

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# TOSCANINI

## CONDUCTS LA SCALA ORCHESTRA AT THE VENICE FESTIVAL, 1949

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VENICE FESTIVAL 1949  
TOSCANINI - LA SCALA ORCHESTRA

**Toscanini was born in Parma, Emilia-Romagna**, and won a scholarship to the local music conservatory, where he studied the cello. He joined the orchestra of an opera company, with which he toured South America in 1886. While presenting Aida in Rio de Janeiro, the orchestra's conductor was booed by the audience and forced to leave the podium. Although he had no conducting experience, Toscanini was persuaded to take up the baton, and led a magnificent performance completely from memory. Thus began his career as a conductor at age 19.

Upon returning to Italy, Toscanini returned to his chair in the cello section, and participated as cellist in the world premiere of Verdi's Otello (La Scala, 1887) under the composer's supervision. (Verdi, who habitually complained that conductors never seemed interested in directing his scores the way he had written them, was impressed by reports from Arrigo Boito about Toscanini's ability to interpret his scores. The composer was also impressed when Toscanini consulted him personally, indicating a ritardando where it was not set out in the score; Verdi said that only a true musician would have felt the need to make that ritardando.)

Gradually the young musician's reputation as an operatic conductor of unusual authority and skill supplanted his cello career. In the following decade he consolidated his career in Italy, entrusted with the world premieres of Puccini's La Bohème and Leoncavallo's Pagliacci. In 1896, Toscanini conducted his first symphonic concert (works by Schubert, Brahms, Tchaikovsky, and Wagner), in Turin. By 1898 he was resident conductor at La Scala, Milan and remained there until 1908, returning during the 1920s. He took the Scala Orchestra to the United States on a concert tour in 1920-21; it was during that tour that Toscanini made his first recordings (for the Victor Talking Machine Company).

**Toscanini returned to Europe from the United States after World War Two on a number of occasions**, and conducted the Orchestra of La Scala at a further sixteen concerts between 1946 and 1952, chiefly in Milan, but also twice in Lucerne and once, as presented here, in Venice - the first of three engagements that year with the orchestra. The other two concerts, on 8th and 10th September 1949, consisted of largely the same repertoire as heard on this recording. Neither of these concerts is believed to have been recorded.

VENICE FESTIVAL 1949  
TOSCANINI - LA SCALA ORCHESTRA

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