

STEREO  
DIGITAL AUDIO  
PASC133

# LEOPOLD STOKOWSKI

CONDUCTS THE  
NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

PRISTINE  
AUDIO  
XR

STEREO  
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- 1 VAUGHAN WILLIAMS: *Fantasia on 'Greensleeves'* (5:28)  
Unissued full-length studio recording. Columbia Studios 21st February, 1949 - a shortened version was prepared and issued on 78rpm disc from this recording session, the complete piece being too long for a single disc side.

## SCHUMANN: Symphony No 2 in C, Op 61

- 2 1st mvt: *Sostenuto assai* (9:38)  
3 2nd mvt: *Scherzo* (6:39)  
4 3rd mvt: *Adagio espressivo* (9:29)  
5 4th mvt: *Allegro molto vivace* (7:37)  
Live at Carnegie Hall, 6th February 1949, taken from a later radio rebroadcast of the original masters

- 6 ENESCU: *Romanian Rhapsody No 1 in A, Op. 11* (9:53)  
Live at Carnegie Hall, 21st February 1949, taken from a later radio rebroadcast of the original masters

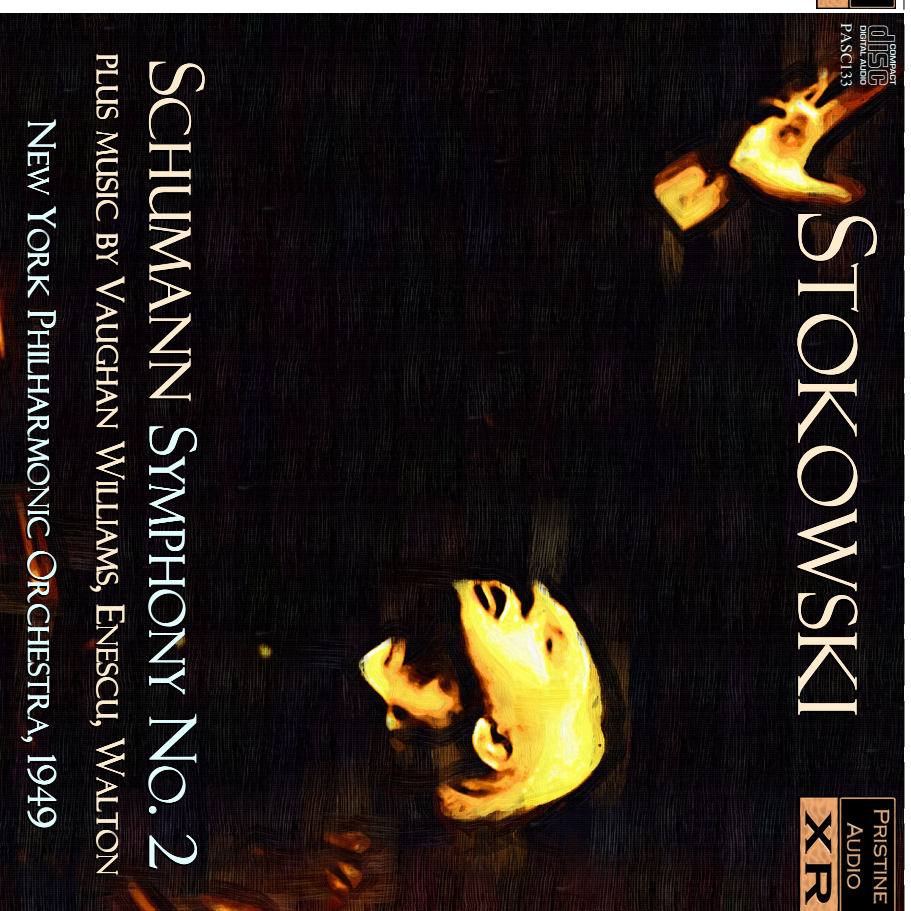
- 7 WALTON: *Spliffire Prelude and Fugue* (6:42)

Live at Carnegie Hall, 6th February 1949, "Recorded by Charles 'Jack' Baumgarten on a primitive glass acetate recording machine direct off the radio at the time of the original transmission" - the only extant recording of Stokowski conducting Walton

All previously unissued recordings from the collection of Edward Johnson  
Restoration and XR remastering by Andrew Rose at Pristine Audio, October-November 2008  
Cover artwork based on a photograph of Leopold Stokowski

Total duration: 55:26 ©2008 Pristine Audio.

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SCHUMANN: SYMPHONY NO. 2; MUSIC BY VAUGHAN WILLIAMS, ENESCU AND WALTON  
STOKOWSKI, NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

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# LEOPOLD STOKOWSKI

## CONDUCTS THE NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

COMPACT  
disc  
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SCHUMANN: SYMPHONY NO. 2; MUSIC BY VAUGHAN WILLIAMS, ENESCU AND WALTON  
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Born in London in 1882 of Polish-Irish origin, Leopold Stokowski showed an early aptitude for music, entering the Royal College of Music at the age of thirteen. He sang in the choir of St Marylebone Church, becoming Assistant Organist to Sir Henry Walford Davies at The Temple Church, and in 1900 formed the choir of St Mary's, Charing Cross Road. He took his Bachelor of Music Degree at Queen's College, Oxford, became a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists, and in 1902 was appointed Choirmaster at St. James's Church, Piccadilly.

In 1905 he took up a similar appointment at St. Bartholomew's, New York City, and it was in America that his career was to flourish. He moved from the organ loft to the orchestral podium when he made his concert debuts in Paris and London in 1909, and that same year he was appointed conductor of the Cincinnati Orchestra. Three years later he took over the Philadelphia Orchestra, a position he was to retain for a quarter of a century, during which time he transformed a provincial ensemble into a world class orchestra noted for its precision, virtuosity and tone-colour.

Stokowski championed living composers with hundreds of premières: he introduced to American audiences Mahler's *8th Symphony*, Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring*, Schoenberg's *Gurrelieder*, Alban Berg's *Wozzeck* and many of the works of Richard Strauss, Rachmaninov, Sibelius, Shostakovich, Falla, Prokofiev, and countless American composers.

At the end of 1930s, Stokowski left Philadelphia to form the All-American Youth Orchestra and co-conduct the NBC Symphony with Toscanini. By this time he had appeared in a few films, notably the 1940 production of Walt Disney's *Fantasia*. Within a few years he had founded the New York City and Hollywood Bowl Symphony Orchestras, and in the late 1940s he became a chief Guest Conductor with the New York Philharmonic. From 1951 Stokowski began a new career abroad making frequent guest appearances with the world's finest orchestras.

From 1955-61 he was Music Director of the Houston Symphony Orchestra and in 1962 he founded the American Symphony Orchestra. In 1963 he made his debut at the Sir Henry Wood "Proms" in London - the first 'International conductor' to do so - and his concerts there included a memorable Proms premiere of Mahler's *Resurrection Symphony*. In 1972 Stokowski returned to England, where he remained until his death, giving many memorable concerts and making recordings almost until the day he died.

David Mellor wrote in Gramophone: "*One of the great joys of recent years for me has been the reassessment of Leopold Stokowski... he is now recognized as the father of modern orchestral standards. He possessed a truly magical gift of extracting a burnished sound from both great and second-rank ensembles. He also loved the process of recording and his gramophone career was a constant quest for a better recorded sound. But the greatest pleasure of all for me is his acceptance now as an outstanding conductor of nineteenth- and twentieth-century music, including a lot that was at the cutting edge of contemporary achievement.*"

Biography from The Stokowski Society website: <http://www.stokowskisociety.net>

FULL NOTES ON THIS RECORDING CAN BE FOUND AT [WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM](http://WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM)