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NOEL NEWTON-WOOD, PIANO FIRST AND LAST RECORDINGS

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- 1 ALBENIZ: España, Op. 165, No. 3: Malagueña (arr. Kreisler)

3:46

Ilda Hændel, violin. Recorded 2nd April 1941, Decca Studios, London. Decca 78: K.1073

BEETHOVEN

Violin Sonata No. 8 in G, Op.30, No.3

Ilda Hændel, violin. Recorded 18th February 1941, Decca Studios, London. Decca 78: K.959960

- 2 1st mv't. - Allegro assai
3 2nd mv't. - Tempo di minuetto, ma molto moderato e grizioso
4 3rd mv't. - Allegro vivace

3:53
7:02
3:28

SHOSTAKOVICH

Concerto for Piano, Trumpet and Strings in C minor, Op.35

Harry Sevastian, trumpet, Concert Hall Society Symphony Orchestra, cond. Walter Goehr.
Recorded 1953. Concert Hall Society LP: H.4

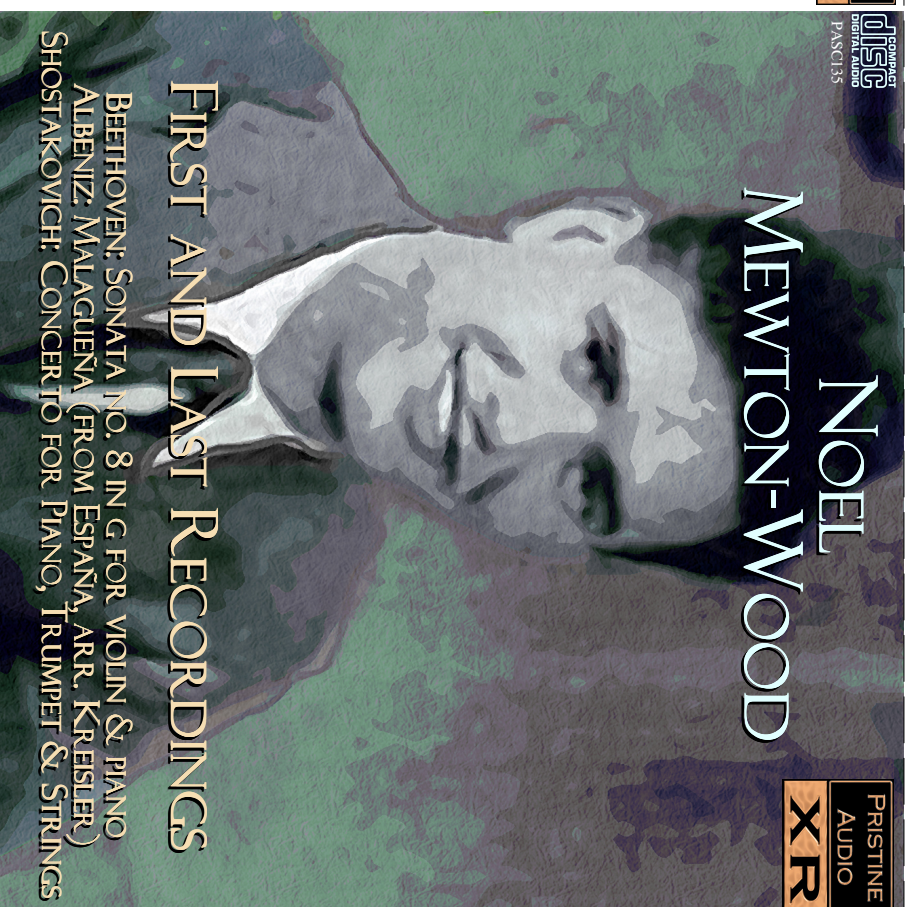
- 5 1st mv't. - Allegro moderato
6 2nd mv't. - Lento
7 3rd mv't. - Moderato
8 4th mv't. - Allegro con brio

5:54
7:05
1:46
6:35

Restoration and XR remastering by Andrew Rose at Pristine Audio, December 2008
Cover artwork based on a photograph of Noel Newton-Wood

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NOEL MEWTON-WOOD

FIRST AND LAST RECORDINGS

Noel Mewton-Wood (November 20, 1922 – December 5, 1953) was an Australian-born concert pianist who achieved some fame during his short life.

Born in Melbourne, he studied at the Melbourne Conservatorium until the age of fourteen. After further studies at London's Royal Academy of Music, Mewton-Wood spent time with Artur Schnabel in Italy.

In March 1940 he returned to London for his debut performance at Queen's Hall, performing Beethoven's third piano concerto with the London Philharmonic Orchestra under Sir Thomas Beecham. He later performed in France, Germany, South Africa, Poland, Turkey, and Australia.

At the age of thirty-one, Mewton-Wood committed suicide by drinking prussic acid, apparently blaming himself for the death of a friend. The notes written by a friend of Mewton-Wood, John Amis, for the reissue of the Bliss Concerto recording, indicate that Mewton-Wood was gay and was depressed by the recent death of his lover.

Mewton-Wood's The Times obituary of December 7, 1953 described his playing style at his debut performance:

"At once his remarkable control and his musicianship were apparent: the ascending scales in octaves, with which the pianist first enters, thundered out with whirlwind power, but he could summon beautiful cantabile tone for the slow movement and the phrasing of the rondo theme was admirably neat for all the rapidity of the tempo; a true understanding of the relationship in concerto between soloist and orchestra, and of the soloist's part in ensemble, betokened the musician, the potential chamber performer."

NB. The track order for this CD was determined by dating provided by the National Sound Archive at the British Library which, along with other sources, dates the Albéniz recording to 1940. However, research elsewhere gives a precise date of 2nd April 1941 for the recording, which we have duly noted in the track information on this disc. We have been unable to discover a precise date for the Shostakovich recording. It is thought that the CHS Symphony Orchestra was made up from players in Dutch Radio orchestras.

NOTES FROM WIKIPEDIA - FULL NOTES ON THIS RECORDING CAN BE FOUND AT WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM