



PASC216

ALFRED HERTZ

THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA COMPLETE RECORDINGS - VOLUME III



PASC216

1 **AUBER: Fra Diavolo – Overture** (7:45)

Recorded 19th January, 1925 in Oakland
Matrix nos: PC 55-4 and 56-3
First issued on Victor 6506

MASSENET: Phèdre

2 **Overture** – Acoustic recording (9:17)

Recorded 26th January and 2nd February, 1925 in Oakland
Matrix nos: PC 64-1 and 77-1
First issued on Victor 6539

3 **Overture** – Electric recording (9:09)

Recorded 21st February, 1928 in the Scottish Rite Temple, Oakland
Matrix nos: PCVE 42012-2 and 42013-2
First issued on Victor 7154

4 **DELIBES: Coppélia – Dance of the Automatons
and Waltz** (4:08)

Recorded 21st April, 1926 in Oakland
Matrix no.: PCVE 171-4
First issued on Victor 6586

DELIBES: Sylvia

5 **Intermezzo and Valse Lente** (3:16)

Recorded 24th April, 1926 in Oakland
Matrix nos.: PBVE 181-2 and 182-2
First issued on Victor 1166

7 **GOUNOD: Funeral March of a Marionette** (4:43)

Recorded 15th April 1927 in the Columbia Theatre, San Francisco
Matrix no: PCVE 253-2
First issued on Victor 6639

MASSENET: Le Cid – Ballet Music

8 1. **Castillane** (2:37)

9 2. **Andalouse** (2:20)

10 3. **Aragonaise** (1:43)

11 4. **Aubade** (1:00)

12 5. **Catalane** (3:02)

13 6. **Madrilene** (3:15)

14 7. **Navarraise** (3:01)

Recorded 27th and 28th February, 1928 in the Scottish Rite Temple, Oakland
Matrix nos.: PBVE 42033-42038, all second takes except 42035, Take 3
First issued on Victor 1406 through 1408 in album M-56

San Francisco Symphony Orchestra
conductor **Alfred Hertz**

Producer and Audio Restoration Engineer: Mark Obert-Thorn

Cover artwork based on a photograph of Alfred Hertz

Total duration: 57:27 ©2010 Pristine Audio.

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ALFRED HERTZ

THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



THE COMPLETE RECORDINGS, VOL. 3

AUBER: FRA DIAVOLO – OVERTURE
MASSENET: PHÈDRE – OVERTURE · LE CID – BALLET MUSIC
DELIBES: COPPÉLIA AND SYLVIA – EXCERPTS
GOUNOD: FUNERAL MARCH OF A MARIONETTE

Obert-Thorn RECORDED 1925-1928

PRISTINE
AUDIO

PRISTINE
AUDIOPRISTINE
AUDIO

ALFRED HERTZ

THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

COMPLETE RECORDINGS - VOLUME III

COMPACT
disc
DIGITAL AUDIO

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COMPLETE RECORDINGS - VOLUME III
ALFRED HERTZ AND THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

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PRISTINE
AUDIO

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COMPLETE RECORDINGS - VOLUME III
ALFRED HERTZ AND THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The San Francisco Symphony (SFS) is an orchestra based in San Francisco, California. The current music director is Michael Tilson Thomas, who has held the position since September 1995.

The orchestra has long been an integral part of city life and culture in San Francisco. Its first concerts were led by conductor composer Henry Hadley, who led the Seattle Symphony Orchestra from 1909 to 1911. There were sixty musicians in the orchestra at the beginning of their first season. The first concert included music by Wagner, Tchaikovsky, Haydn, and Liszt. There were thirteen concerts in the 1911-1912 season, five of which were popular music.

Hadley was followed in 1915 by Alfred Hertz, who had conducted for many years at the Metropolitan Opera and had appeared with the company during their historic performances in San Francisco in April 1906, just prior to the earthquake and fire. Hertz helped to refine the orchestra and convinced the Victor Talking Machine Company to record it in Oakland in early 1925. Hertz also led the orchestra on a number of radio broadcasts.

The orchestra has a long history of recordings, most notably those made with Pierre Monteux for RCA Victor, Herbert Blomstedt for Decca, and Michael Tilson Thomas for BMG and the orchestra's own label, SFS Media.

The first recording, an acoustical disc of Auber's overture to *Fra Diavolo*, was made for Victor on January 19, 1925 under Hertz's direction. The orchestra soon switched to electrical recordings, which continued until 1928. These recordings were produced by Victor's Oakland plant, which had opened in 1924. During these sessions, Hertz conducted works by Ludwig van Beethoven, Johannes Brahms, Léo Delibes, Alexander Glazunov, Charles Gounod, Fritz Kreisler, Franz Liszt, Alexandre Luigini, Jules Massenet, Felix Mendelssohn, Moritz Moszkowski, Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov, Franz Schubert and Carl Maria von Weber. All of these recordings had only been issued on 78 rpm discs until now, and are prized by collectors.

Producer's Note

The present all-French collection offers examples of Hertz/San Francisco recordings from each year that Victor sent its engineers out to California to record them. Indeed, the very first recording the orchestra made is here (*Fra Diavolo*), as well as sides from their final session (*Le Cid*). It was during that first group of acoustic sessions that Hertz's only still-unpublished recording with the orchestra was made: the *Prelude to Le Delfuge* by Saint-Saëns, with the ensemble's concertmaster (and Menuhin pedagogue) Louis Persinger as soloist. The tremendous advance made by the introduction of electrical recording is vividly illustrated by the two versions of the *Pièdre* Overture, made three years apart.

The sources for the transfers were American Victor copies – arch label (“bat-wing”) pressings for the acoustic items; “Z” pressings for the Gounod and *Coppélia* sides; pre-war “Gold” label pressings for the electric Massenet items; and wartime “Silver” label copies for the *Sylvia* items.

Mark Obert-Thorn

NOTES FROM WIKIPEDIA, AMENDED BY MARK OBERT-THORN - FURTHER NOTES AT WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM