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VAUGHAN WILLIAMS

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SYMPHONIES 2 AND 9

VAUGHAN WILLIAMS *Symphony No. 9 in E minor (1956/57) World Première Performance*

- ❑ Introduction (0:30)
- ❑ 1st mvt. - Moderato Maestoso (8:11)
- ❑ 2nd mvt. - Andante sostenuto (7:34)
- ❑ 3rd mvt. - Scherzo, Allegro pesante (5:32)
- ❑ 4th mvt. - Andante tranquillo (10:54)

Royal Festival Hall, London, 2nd April, 1958

Royal Philharmonic Orchestra
conducted by **Sir Malcolm Sargent**

VAUGHAN WILLIAMS *A London Symphony (No. 2) (1913)*

- ❑ Introduction (0:55)
- ❑ 1st mvt. - Lento - Allegro risoluto (13:49)
- ❑ 2nd mvt. - Lento (10:58)
- ❑ 3rd mvt. - Scherzo (Nocturne) (5:25)
- ❑ 4th mvt. - Finale - Andante con moto - Maestoso alla marcia - Allegro - Lento - Epilogue (14:02)

Studio 8H, New York, 9th December, 1945

NBC Symphony Orchestra
conducted by **Dimitri Mitropoulos**

Source material provided by Edward Johnson
XR remastering by Andrew Rose at Pristine Audio, February-June 2010
Cover artwork based on a photograph of Ralph Vaughan Williams
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SYMPHONY NO. 9 - WORLD PREMIÈRE

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA CONDUCTED BY SIR MALCOLM SARGENT, 2ND APRIL, 1958

A LONDON SYMPHONY

NBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONDUCTED BY DIMITRI MITROPOULOS, 9TH DECEMBER, 1945



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I first received copies of these two remarkable and rare concerts back in February of this year in cassette form from Edward Johnson. We were both enthusiastic about the performances but just a little sceptical about the medium. I began by transferring the Ninth Symphony and set about its restoration, but soon realised that despite the finest Nakamichi replay equipment and all the digital restoration tools at my disposal, I would be unable to do full justice to the original recording from this particular copy. And so began the hunt for a better source.

A few weeks later, Edward came back to me with the suggestion that the renowned writer, musicologist and expert on British classical music, Lewis Foreman, thought he might have copies of these tapes and would we like him to dig them out? When Mr Foreman's CD-R of the 9th arrived I immediately knew we were on track for an excellent-sounding release.

The recording was taken from a later BBC FM rebroadcast, and I've been able to add in announcements from the original broadcast, preserved in a second transfer by Mr. Foreman of discs prepared for overseas broadcasts by the BBC in the 1950s, but of lower overall sound quality. Aside from very occasional bursts of static, which have been largely eradicated, the sound quality was excellent throughout, and it is a pleasure and privilege to be able to make this historic world première recording available to the public.

The Mitropoulos is another stunning and very rare recorded performance, and again Mr. Foreman's source has been used almost throughout (some small patches from Edward Johnson's cassette were required for the opening announcement). However, this originated in another era, and suffered a wide range of faults originating in the acetate 78s onto which it would have been first recorded. I have dealt as best I can with thousands of ticks, pops and scratches, aimed to reduce or eliminate where possible peak distortion, corrected multiple pitch variation problems and kept the sound as open and vital as I possibly can. Sonically, after the 9th, it takes a moment or two for the ears to adjust, but the listener will soon find him or herself drawn into Mitropoulos' magical recreation of Vaughan Williams' London. It really is a superb rendition of this classic English symphony, one which easily transcends the limitations placed upon it by the shortcomings of the original recording.

Andrew Rose, June 2010

NOTES BY ANDREW ROSE - FURTHER NOTES ONLINE AT WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM