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PAUL PARAY

CONDUCTS GERMAN MUSIC

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PASC 241

BRAHMS Symphony No. 4 in E minor, Op. 98

- 1 1st mvt. - Allegro non troppo (11:59)
- 2 2nd mvt. - Andante moderato (11:22)
- 3 3rd mvt. - Allegro giocoso (6:05)
- 4 4th mvt. - Allegro energico e passionato (10:06)

Recorded 26 March, 1955 - Mercury MG 50057

NB This was Paray's only Mercury recording of any of Brahms's symphonies

WAGNER Orchestral Music from the Operas

- 5 *Tannhäuser Overture* (13:31)
- 6 *Ride of the Valkyries* (5:19)
- 7 *The Mastersingers Overture* (9:21)
- 8 *Lohengrin - Prelude to Act 1* (8:07)
- 9 *Lohengrin - Prelude to Act 3* (2:49)

Recorded February 1953 - Mercury MG 50021

NB These were Paray's only Mercury recordings of these works

Detroit Symphony Orchestra
conductor **Paul Paray**

Transfers by Edward Johnson from his private collection
XR remastering by Andrew Rose at Pristine Audio, August 2010

Cover artwork based on a photograph of Paul Paray

Total duration: 78:39 ©2010 Pristine Audio.

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PARAY

CONDUCTS
GERMAN MUSIC

BRAHMS
SYMPHONY No. 4

WAGNER
TANNHÄUSER OVERTURE
RIDE OF THE VALKYRIES
MASTERSINGERS OVERTURE
LOHENGRIIN PRELUDES

DETROIT SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

MERCURY RECORDINGS, 1953/55

PAUL PARAY

CONDUCTS GERMAN MUSIC

Paul Paray (born Le Tréport, May 24, 1886 - died Monte Carlo, October 10, 1979) was a French conductor, organist and composer. He is best remembered in the United States for being the resident conductor of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra for more than a decade. He married Yolande Falck on August 25 1944.

Paray's father, Auguste, was a sculptor and organist at St. Jacques church, and leader of an amateur musical society. He put young Paul in the society's orchestra as a drummer. Later, Paul Paray went to Rouen to study music with the abbots Bourgeois and Bourdon, and organ with Haelling. This prepared him to enter the Paris Conservatoire. In 1911, Paul Paray won the Premier Grand Prix de Rome for his cantata *Yanitzka*.

As World War I started, Paul Paray heeded the call to arms and joined the French Army. In 1914, he was a prisoner of war at the Darmstadt camp, where he composed a string quartet.

After the war, Paray was invited to conduct the orchestra of the Casino de Caeterets, which included players from the Lamoureux Orchestra. This was a springboard for him to conduct this Orchestra in Paris. Later he was music director of the Monte Carlo Orchestra, and president of the Concerts Colonne.

In 1922, Paray composed the ballet *Adonis trouble*. In 1931, he wrote the Mass for the 500th Anniversary of the Death of Joan of Arc, which was premiered at the cathedral in Rouen to commemorate the quincentenary of Joan of Arc's martyr death. In 1935, he wrote his *Symphony No. 1 in C major*, which was premiered at the Concerts Colonne. He composed his *Symphony No. 2 in A major* in 1941.

Paray made his American debut with the New York Philharmonic-Symphony Orchestra in 1939. In 1952, he was appointed music director of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, conducting them in numerous recordings for Mercury Records' "Living Presence" series.

Paray could and did conduct the entire orchestral repertoire well, but he specialized in the French symphonic literature. One of Paray's most renowned recordings, made in October 1957, is that of the Saint-Saëns' *Symphony No. 3 in C minor*. The circumstances surrounding the recording were fortuitous. Paray had built the Detroit Symphony Orchestra into one of the world's most distinguished. Marcel Dupré, a friend and fellow student from childhood, was organist for the session. Dupré, as a young student, had pulled the organ stops for the composer Camille Saint-Saëns in a performance of the *Symphony No. 3* in Paris, and the organ of Ford Auditorium in Detroit was well suited to the work. As well as being among the most authoritative readings of the work, the original analogue recording on the Mercury label remains an audiophile reference in vinyl, and the analogue-to-digital transfer produced by the original recording director Wilma Cozart for compact disc is also available from Mercury (recording number 432 719-2).

