

## **DOHNÁNYI**IN LONDON



## Producer's Note

The present program brings together examples of Ernö Dohnányi's abilities as pianist, conductor and composer. Most of the recordings were made during a three-day period in June, 1928 when Dohnányi was on tour in London with the Budapest Philharmonic Orchestra, of which he had been music director since 1919.

The first two recording sessions were done for Columbia in one of their smaller London studios, possibly the Portman Rooms. The day after these sessions ended, Dohnányi and the orchestra moved to the more expansive acoustic of Queen's Hall for an HMV session. It is interesting to compare the Columbia version of the Berlioz march, with its unforgiving dead studio acoustic to the HMV version, even with the latter's handicap of having been released from a dubbed matrix. (HMV recorded three other sides at this time, all of Hungarian nationalist hymns, one of them being a 10-inch version of the same Dohnányi Hiszekegy presented here.)

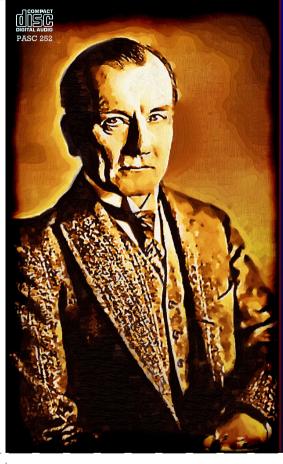
Three years later, Dohnányi returned to London to record his Variations. Even though the sessions were held in a large venue (Kingsway Hall), the composer was again unlucky in that the matrices were over-recorded and distort during loud passages. He was to remake this recording in stereo in 1956, but this earlier version has its charms, not least in the humor which HMV producer/conductor Lawrance Collingwood finds in the orchestral accompaniment.

The sources for the transfers were American Columbia "Viva-Tonal" pressings for the Mozart; laminated English Columbias for the Liszt and Berlioz; black-label American Victor "Orthophonic" pressings for the Queen's Hall items; and Victor "Z" and Gold pressings for the 1931 sessions.

Mark Obert-Thorn, reissue producer

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## DOHNÁNYI IN LONDON

MOZART

Piano Concerto No. 17

LISZT
HUNGARIAN RHAPSODY NO. 1

BERLIOZ Hungarian March

## DOHNÁNYI

VARIATIONS ON A NURSERY TUNE RURALIA HUNGARICA – EXCERPTS

BUDAPEST PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA LAWRANCE COLLINGWOOD ERNÖ DOHNANYI

RECORDED 1928 - 1931

**Obert-Thorn**