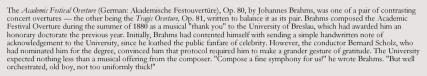


BEECHAM



CONDUCTS BRAHMS & DELIUS



The Symphony No. 2 in D major, Op. 73, was composed by Johannes Brahms in the summer of 1877 during a visit to Pörtschach am Wörthersee, a town in the Austrian province of Carinthia. Its composition was brief in comparison with the fifteen years it took Brahms to complete his First Symphony. The cheerfulness of the symphony is akin to the pastoral mood of Beethoven's Sixth. Brahms's First Symphony contrasted because of its sombre C minor tonality. Mischievously, the composer wrote to his publisher on November 22, 1877, that the symphony's tone is melancholy, and that the score must sound like mourning. While the work is neither tragic nor especially dramatic, the dynamics of the first two movements is largely piano and reaches forte in minor scales. The last two movements are lighter in dynamics and briefer. The subtle interplay of contrasting melodies overlapping and being passed around throughout the instruments of the orchestra allow the conductor to dictate the mood by emphasizing different parts.

Delius' North Country Sketches was composed in 1914, and is one of his few compositions frankly inspired by the English countryside. The four movements are mood pictures of the varying seasons in Yorkshire, and the work was premièred by Beecham in May 1915. It has been suggested that their location may have been inspired by a meeting between Delius and the Brontë sisters, though this may well have taken place shortly after the music had been written.

Brahms notes and more: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brahms Full scores of the Brahms works are available for free download at The International Music Score Library Project: http://imslp.org

Recording and restoration notes

The two Brahms recordings, made in full stereo in 1956 and 1958, were taken from very clean later US pressings on the Seraphim label, and despite some minor vinyl surface inconsistencies the transfer was straightforward. XR remastering has succeeded in adding extra clarity and immediacy to the sound.

The earlier recording of Delius' North Country Sketches was made for 78rpm discs but onto tape in 1949., and this transfer was taken from a near-mint Philips white label test pressing for a later LP reissue. I was able to expand out considerably the top end of the frequency range, though this treatment did reveal some occasional treble inconsistencies in the tape which had to be rectified, as well as bringing up hiss levels slightly. I have attempted to strike a sensible balance between background hiss reduction and treble clarity.

AR

FULL PROGRAMME NOTES CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM

SARL Pristine Audio, Le Bourg, 24610 St. Méard de Gurçon, France - Tel. (00) 33 553 821857 Internet: www.pristineclassical.com



BEECHAM



CONDUCTS BRAHMS AND DELIUS
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC OR CHESTRA



BRAHMS

Symphony No. 2 in D, Op. 73 Academic Festival Overture, Op. 80

DELIUS

North Country Sketches

STUDIO RECORINGS FROM 1949, 1956 AND 1958

☐ BRAHMS Academic Festival Overture, Op. 80 (10:43) Recorded in stereo in Abbey Road Studio 1, London, $29 \mathrm{th}$ November, 1956

First issued as UK Columbia LP 33CX1429

2 1st mvt. - Allegro non troppo (14:10)

3 2nd mvt. - Adagio non troppo (9:01)

3 4th mvt. - Allegro con spirito (8:54)

DELIUS North Country Sketches

 $\fbox{6}\ 1.$ Autumn - the wind soughs in the trees (7:11)

First issued as HMV LP ASD 348

2. Winter Landscape (4:02)

9 4. The March of Spring (7:30) Recorded in mono, 14th February, 1949 First issued as UK Columbia 78s LX 1399-1401 Matrix numbers CAX 11067-11072

Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

conducted by Sir Thomas Beecham

8 3. Dance (5:45)

BRAHMS Symphony No. 2 in D, OP.73

4 3rd mvt. - Allegretto grazioso (quasi andantino) (5:44)

Recorded in stereo in Abbey Road Studio 1, London, 1st December, $1958\,$

XR remastering by **Andrew Rose**

Transfers from Seraphim stereo LP S-60083 (Brahms) and Philips mono LP GL5691 (white-label test pressing)

can be easily cancelled using the mono switch on your amplifier

Total duration: 73:00

SYMPHONY NO 2 - DELIUS NORTH COUNTRY SKETCHES

PRISTINE AUDIO

(Delius)

Cover artwork based on a photograph of Sir Thomas Beecham

The Delius recording is presented here with Pristine Audio's acclaimed. here with Pristine Audio's acclaimed subtle Ambient Stereo treatment. This is fully mono-compatable and

For a full catalogue visit www.pristineclassical.com or call: (00) 33 979 622713

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BRAHMS SYMPHONY NO 2 - DELLUS NORTH COUNTRY SKETCHES BEECHAM, ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA