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# STOKOWSKI

CONDUCTS 20TH CENTURY MUSIC

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Leopold Stokowski was a staunch champion of contemporary music and Schoenberg was one of the many 20th century composers whose works found in Stokowski a firm advocate. Indeed, Stokowski was the only conductor to perform all of Schoenberg's orchestral music during the composer's own lifetime. His performances included the World Premieres of the *Violin Concerto* in 1940 (with Louis Krasner as soloist and the Philadelphia Orchestra) and the *Piano Concerto* in 1944 (with Eduard Steuermann, piano, and the NBC Symphony, of which Stokowski was then co-conductor with Toscanini).

Stokowski gave the American Premieres in Philadelphia of Schoenberg's *First Kammer-symphonie* (1915), the *Variations for Orchestra* (1929) and *Die Glückliche Hand* (1930). The US Premiere of *Gurrelieder* in 1932, together with its immediate subsequent performances, were recorded by RCA and the resulting 78rpm album remained the only recording of the work in the catalogue until the advent of LP. When Schoenberg died in 1951, Stokowski marked the event the following year by recording *Verklärte Nacht* in the performance heard here. His championship of the composer was marked by further performances of *Gurrelieder* in 1961, firstly in Philadelphia and again a few months later in Scotland, when he opened that year's Edinburgh International Festival with the work.

Bartók featured less on Stokowski's concert programmes and in his discography, though he did record the *Music for Strings, Percussion and Celesta* in 1957 for Capitol so as to exploit their new "Full Dimensional Stereo Sound." Three years later he recorded Bartók's *Concerto for Orchestra* with the Houston Symphony for Everest. The performance heard here of the *Sonata for Two Pianos and Percussion* was one of many works he recorded for RCA in the 1950s that he never played in public.

Morton Gould was one of the great many young American composers whose music Stokowski presented to the public for the first time. In 1936, he conducted the World Premiere of Gould's *Chorale and Fugue in Jazz* and in 1941 he recorded the *Guaracha* from the *Latin-American Symphonette No. 4* with his new All-American Youth Orchestra. Two years later he played Gould's *Two Marches for Orchestra* with the NBC Symphony, the broadcast of which was released on Cala Records by the Leopold Stokowski Society in 1999 (CACD0526). The recording of Gould's *Dance Variations* heard here was one of the many 'World Premiere Recordings' made by Stokowski during his long and illustrious career.

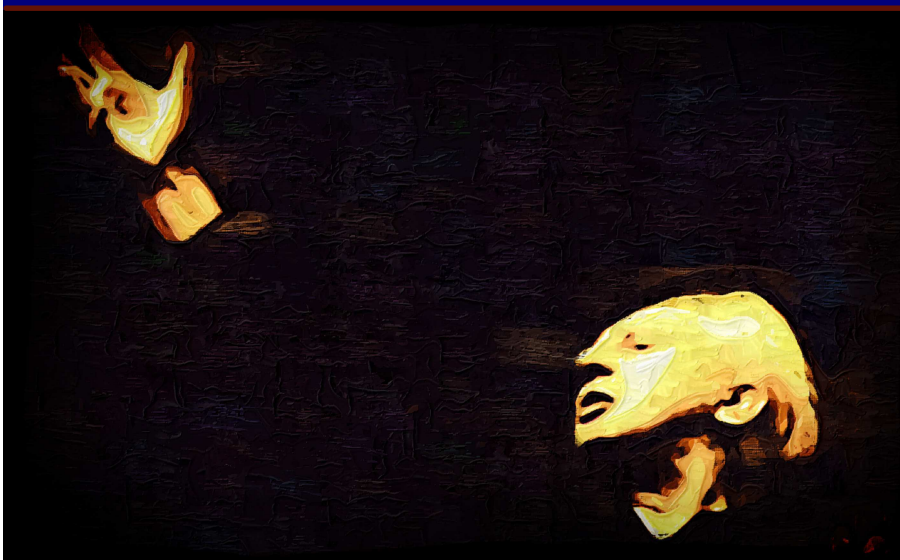
Notes by Edward Johnson

FULL PROGRAMME NOTES CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT [WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM](http://WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM)

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# STOKOWSKI



## CONDUCTS 20TH CENTURY MUSIC

SCHOENBERG VERKLÄRTE NACHT  
BARTÓK SONATA FOR 2 PIANOS AND PERCUSSION  
MORTON GOULD DANCE VARIATIONS

STUDIO RECORDINGS, 1952-53

 bert-Thorn

## Stokowski conducts 20th Century Music

### SCHOENBERG Verklärte Nacht (Transfigured Night) OP. 4

1. Sehr langsam (2:42)
2. Etwas bewegter (9:23)
3. Schwer betont (2:00)
4. Sehr breit und langsam (9:25)
5. Sehr ruhig (4:19)

Leopold Stokowski and His Symphony Orchestra

Recorded 3rd September, 1952 in Manhattan Center, New York City

First issued on RCA Victor LM-1739

### BARTÓK Sonata for Two Pianos and Percussion

- 1st Mvt. - Assai lento; Allegro molto (12:28)
- 2nd Mvt. - Lento, ma non troppo (5:52)
- 3rd Mvt. - Allegro non troppo (6:14)

Gerson Yessin and Raymond Viola, pianists

Elayne Jones and Alfred Howard, percussion

Leopold Stokowski, conductor

Recorded 27th March and 3rd April, 1952 in Manhattan Center, New York City

First issued on RCA Victor LM-1727

### MORTON GOULD Dance Variations

- 1st Mvt. - Chaconne (5:34)
- 2nd Mvt. - Arabesques: Gavotte - Pavane - Polka - Quadrille - Minuet - Waltz - Can-Can (4:24)
- 3rd Mvt. - Pas de deux (Tango) (6:03)
- 4th Mvt. - Tarantella (5:35)

Arthur Whittemore and Jack Lowe, duo-pianists

Leopold Stokowski and the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra

Recorded 22nd November, 1953 in the War Memorial Opera House, San Francisco

First issued on RCA Victor LM-1858



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Cover artwork based on a  
photograph of **Leopold Stokowski**

Producer and Audio Restoration  
Engineer: **Mark Obert-Thorn**

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