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# Sir Thomas Beecham

## HAYDN London Symphonies Vol. 2: Nos 99-104

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# BEECHAM

## HAYDN London Symphonies

### Volume 2

Symphony No. 99 in E flat major  
Symphony No. 100 in G major  
The "Military"  
Symphony No. 101 in D major  
The "Clock"  
Symphony No. 102 in B flat major  
Symphony No. 103 in E flat major  
The "Drum-Roll"  
Symphony No. 104 in D major  
The "London"

Royal Philharmonic Orchestra  
Sir Thomas Beecham

Stereo Studio Recordings, 1958



Ever since Beecham's recording of the first six Salomon symphonies was issued in December 1958 I have been waiting eagerly for the second six to complete the set, and here at last they are. I don't propose to review them in quite so much detail, because by now anyone who loves these symphonies (and what musician could fail to?) will have had a chance of discovering for himself the particular qualities that make Beecham's performances of them unique. It is a pretty safe bet that anyone who owns and admires the earlier set will want to add these records to them.

However, for the benefit of those who may be coming to Beecham's Haydn for the first time perhaps I should briefly recapitulate some of the factors on both sides of the balance-sheet. Debts first. Beecham is less scrupulous than one might wish in a "complete edition" about using the best available texts of the music; he does not take advantage of the researches of Mr. Robbins Landon in particular. He never repeats the exposures in Haydn's first movements and often omits the repeats elsewhere (though not in the minuetts, of course). He tends to take both "slow movements" and minuetts rather more slowly than the music or Haydn's markings really warrant—not from lack of temperament, I need hardly say, but from his preoccupation with expressive phrasing. Sometimes this makes for rather too much languor in the slow movements, I think, and too much pomposity in the minuetts, but on the reverse side of the coin is the superb rhythmic vitality of the outer movements. Even when Beecham's tempi are slower than those of younger conductors his allegro movements can more than hold their own by virtue of this rhythmic tautness, and this gives them a genial heart-warming quality that never degenerates into the neurotic bustle of more streamlined performances ...

Beecham's "Salomonas" will, I have no doubt, take their place among the classics of the gramophone, along with Schnabel's complete Beethoven sonatas and Toscanini's Verdi—not "definitive" (Heaven forbid!) but so rich in musical understanding that even their idiosyncrasies can hardly fail to be loved.

J.N. *The Gramophone*, April 1960 (Reviewing ALP1693-5, *original LP issues*, except)

#### Transfer notes

As with our first volume of Beecham conducting Haydn's *London* symphonies, I found that despite generally excellent recording quality, there were issues of pitch, pre- and post-echo and various extraneous noises to deal with. There is an illustrated article on the pitch issue, especially regarding edited-in sections and movements apparently recorded at different pitches, from our newsletter of 24 February 2012, which is also reproduced on our website page for this volume. You'll also find a free download of Beecham conducting rehearsals for the recordings of Symphonies 100, 101 and 104. One flaw of the original mint vinyl remains audible, though much improved over the EMI release - some bad tape drop-out in the "Clock" movement of Symphony 101. A.R.

FULL PROGRAMME NOTES CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT [WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM](http://WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM)  
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## Haydn London Symphonies Vol. 2

### HAYDN Symphony No. 99 in E flat major

- 1 1st mvt. - Adagio - Vivace assai (7:31)
- 2 2nd mvt. - Adagio (6:36)
- 3 3rd mvt. - Minuet (Allegretto) and Trio (6:46)
- 4 4th mvt. - Finale: Vivace (4:43)

### HAYDN Symphony No. 100 in G major, *The "Military"*

- 5 1st mvt. - Adagio - Allegro (6:30)
- 6 2nd mvt. - Allegretto (4:59)
- 7 3rd mvt. - Minuet (Moderato) and Trio (5:02)
- 8 4th mvt. - Finale: Presto (4:55)

### HAYDN Symphony No. 101 in D major, *The "Clock"*

- 9 1st mvt. - Adagio - Presto (6:56)
- 10 2nd mvt. - Andante (8:03)
- 11 3rd mvt. - Minuet (Allegretto) and Trio (8:23)
- 12 4th mvt. - Finale: Vivace (4:58)

### HAYDN Symphony No. 102 in B flat major

- 1 1st mvt. - Largo - Allegro vivace (7:13)
- 2 2nd mvt. - Adagio (5:30)
- 3 3rd mvt. - Minuet (Allegro) and Trio (5:55)
- 4 4th mvt. - Presto (4:40)

### HAYDN Symphony No. 103 in E flat major, *The "Drum-Roll"*

- 5 1st mvt. - Adagio - Allegro con spirito (8:41)
- 6 2nd mvt. - Andante (10:48)
- 7 3rd mvt. - Minuet and Trio (4:50)
- 8 4th mvt. - Finale: Allegro (5:37)

### HAYDN Symphony No. 104 in D major, *The "London"*

- 9 1st mvt. - Adagio - Allegro (7:03)
- 10 2nd mvt. - Andante (8:35)
- 11 3rd mvt. - Minuet (Allegro) and Trio (5:54)
- 12 4th mvt. - Finale: Spiritoso (5:05)

**Royal Philharmonic Orchestra Sir Thomas Beecham**

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XR remastering by **Andrew Rose**

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Cover artwork based on a photograph of  
**Sir Thomas Beecham**, with  
"Le Parlement de Londres, ciel orageux"  
by Claude Monet, 1904

#### Recording dates:

8 May 1958 (Symphony No. 99)  
9 May 1958 (Symphonies Nos. 102, 103)  
10 May 1958 (Symphony No. 104)  
11 May 1958 (Symphony No. 100)  
12 May 1958 (Symphony No. 101)

Recorded at Salle Wagram, Paris

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