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Stokowski

The Philadelphia Orchestra

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Stokowski's long association with The Philadelphia Orchestra began in 1912 when, at the age of 30, he gave his first concert in the city with the orchestra. He stayed in Philadelphia for almost thirty years, handing over to Eugene Ormandy at the end of the 1940-41 season. However, Stokowski returned in 1960 as a guest conductor and continued a series of occasional concerts with the orchestra in the years which followed.

The present concert, which took place on 16 March 1962, is taken from broadcast master tapes originally held in the conductor's own archives, and supplied for transfer for this release by Edward Johnson, who for many years put great efforts into the running of the Stokowski Society, and who obtained a number of recordings from Stokowski's assistant, Jack Baumgarten. This is its first public issue.

We took the unusual step in preparing this release of making all transfers and restoration at a very high sampling rate of 96kHz in order to preserve the highest frequencies captured on tape. Although these exceptionally high frequencies cannot be reproduced on CD, they are available in a 24/96 FLAC download from our website.

Remastering took heed of Stokowski's frequent instruction to producers of his recordings. He liked a full and reverberant sound, as Edward Johnson explains: "The thing to remember with Stokowski is that he started life as a church organist and in his recitals usually played orchestral works transcribed for the organ. So when he became a conductor he recalled the days when he had his feet on the deep 32' pedals and heard the final chord of the piece dying away down the nave for a couple of seconds. Consequently, his correction notes to record producers always asked for "more lows" and "more reverberation," as in the example attached to the producer of his LP of the "The Planets." [Letter reproduced online] I have been careful in my application of this, using a convolution reverb of one of the world's great symphony halls to give the recording the space and texture lacking in the original radio tapes.

The choice of works is of interest. Stokowski never recorded any Webern commercially - this release adds a new composer to the Stokowski discography. He was always a great champion of Sibelius in his early Philadelphia years. He made the first American recordings of *Finlandia* and *The Swan of Tuonela* on 78s, and also the World Premiere Recording of the 4th Symphony in 1932, as well as giving the US concert premieres of Sibelius's 5th, 6th and 7th Symphonies in the 1920s.

Both the Debussy and Mussorgsky here are Stokowski's own orchestrations. His efforts in the latter, more commonly heard in Ravel's version, were designed to make the music sound less French and more Russian, which may explain the omission of the France-related movements in this version. **A.R.**

FULL PROGRAMME NOTES CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM
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Webern - Passacaglia
Sibelius - Symphony No. 4
Debussy - La Soirée dans Grenade
Mussorgsky - Pictures at an Exhibition

Live concert recording, 16 March 1962 - Transfers from Stokowski's own master tapes

XR remastering by **Andrew Rose**

Transfers from tapes compiled for
Leopold Stokowski from the
collection of Edward Johnson

Cover artwork based on a
photograph of **Stokowski** in
Philadelphia, 1960

Recorded at the Academy of
Music, Philadelphia for broadcast
by WFLN-FM

Also available as a high-resolution
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Total duration: **79:22**

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Stokowski in Philadelphia

1 Opening Announcement (0:42)

2 WEBERN *Passacaglia, Op. 1* (10:24)

SIBELIUS *Symphony No. 4 in A minor, Op. 63*

3 1st mvt. - *Tempo molto moderato, quasi adagio* (8:13)

4 2nd mvt. - *Allegro molto vivace* (4:15)

5 3rd mvt. - *Il tempo largo* (9:18)

6 4th mvt. - *Allegro* (11:10)

7 DEBUSSY (*arr. Stokowski*) *La Soirée dans Grenade* (7:47)

MUSSORGSKY (*arr. Stokowski*) *Pictures at an Exhibition*

8 1. Promenade (1:47)

9 2. Gnomus (2:14)

10 3. Promenade (1:02)

11 4. Il vecchio Castello (3:37)

12 7. Bydło (1:55)

13 8. Promenade (0:55)

14 9. Ballet of the Unhatched Chicks (1:17)

15 10. Samuel Goldenberg and Schmuyle (2:42)

16 12. Catacombae (*Sepulchrum romanum*) (1:30)

17 13. Cum mortuis in lingua mortua (2:16)

18 14. The Hut on Fowl's Legs (*Baba-Yagá*) (2:43)

19 15. The Great Gates of Kiev (4:33)

20 Closing Announcement (1:02)

The Philadelphia Orchestra Leopold Stokowski