

COMPACT
disc
DIGITAL AUDIO
PASC 378

Willem Mengelberg

Overtures and Short Works

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Producer's Note

The present volume offers a wide range of Mengelberg's repertoire, from the Baroque, Classical and Romantic eras in the one- or two-disc releases of overtures and short works that were a staple of the 78 rpm era. Some of them Mengelberg had previously recorded acoustically with the New York Philharmonic (Mendelssohn and Saint-Saëns), while others had already received electrical recordings with his other orchestra, the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam (the Beethoven and the first two movements only of the J. C. Bach). However, aside from re-recording the Beethoven and J. S. Bach items (the latter in a different arrangement), Mengelberg never returned to the other works in the studio, making the bulk of these selections unique to his discography.

The earliest recording featured here is the Wagner, done at the tail end of Mengelberg's sessions for *Ein Heldenleben* in December, 1928. Much of the rest of the present release was done over two days' worth of sessions the following month. The remaining items were recorded a year later, along with his recordings of the Beethoven First and Eroica Symphonies just before he left New York, never to return.

The sources used for the present transfers were vinyl test pressings for the Handel; American Victor "Z" pressings for the J. S. Bach, J. C. Bach, Mendelssohn and Meyerbeer items; and pre-war Victor "Gold" label pressings for the remainder. The discs have a comparatively high degree of hiss inherent in the original recordings, present even on the quietest sources. In addition, the 1930 recordings were made with reduced forces in Liederkrantz Hall, a smaller and presumably cheaper-to-rent venue than Carnegie, which RCA used for the orchestra after the onset of the Depression late in 1929. I have added a small amount of digital reverberation to these acoustically dry sides in order to better integrate the sound with the remaining items.

Mark Obert-Thorn

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

in

NEW YORK

Overtures & Short Works

by

J.C. Bach

J.S. Bach

Beethoven

Handel

Humperdinck

Meyerbeer

Mendelssohn

Mozart

Saint-Saëns

Wagner

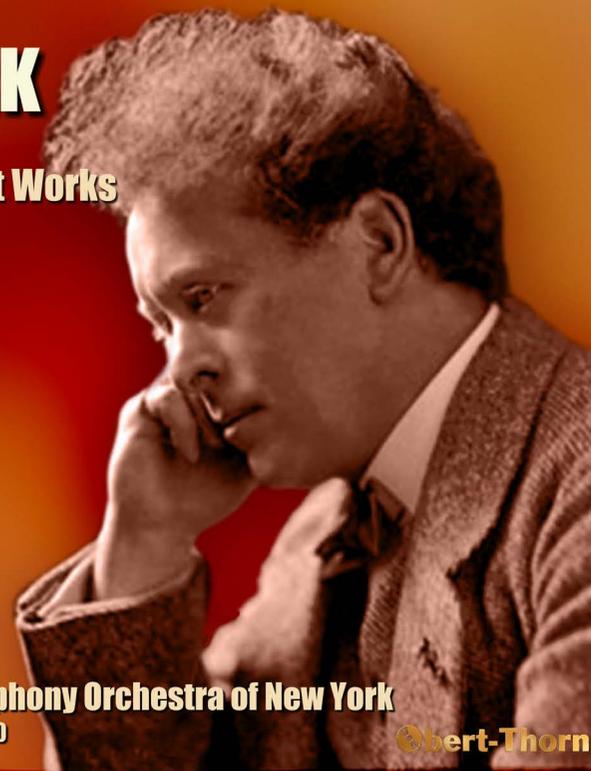
Philharmonic-Symphony Orchestra of New York

Studio recordings, 1928-1930

Obert-Thorn

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Mengelberg in New York

HANDEL (arr. Göhler) *Alcina – Suite*

- 1 1. Overture (3:12)
- 2 2. Menuet – Musette – Menuet (2:45)
- 3 3. Gavotte – Sarabande – Gavotte (3:12)
- 4 4. Menuet (1:08)
- 5 5. Gavotte (0:49)
- 6 6. Tamburino (1:21)

7 J. S. BACH (arr. Mahler) *Air (from Suite No. 3 in D major, BWV 1068)* (3:37)

J. C. BACH (arr. Stein) *Sinfonia in B-flat major, Op. 18, No. 2*

- 8 I. Allegro assai (3:05)
- 9 II. Andante (4:12)
- 10 III. Presto (3:38)

11 MOZART *Die Zauberflöte - Overture* (6:14)

12 BEETHOVEN *Egmont - Overture* (7:55)

13 MENDELSSOHN *Athalie, Op. 74 - War March of the Priests* (4:24)

14 MEYERBEER *Le Prophète - Coronation March* (4:00)

15 WAGNER *Siegfried - Forest Murmurs* (8:20)

16 HUMPERDINCK *Hansel und Gretel - Overture* (6:31)

17 SAINT-SAËNS *Le Rouet d'Omphale, Op. 31* (8:31)

Philharmonic-Symphony Orchestra of New York
Willem Mengelberg

Producer & Audio Restoration Engineer:
Mark Obert-Thorn

Cover artwork based on a photograph of
Willem Mengelberg

Wagner
Recorded 14 December 1928 in Carnegie Hall,
New York

Meyerbeer, Saint-Saëns
Recorded 15 January 1929 in Carnegie Hall,
New York

Handel, JS Bach, JC Bach, Mendelssohn
Recorded 16 January 1929 in Carnegie Hall,
New York

Mozart, Beethoven, Humperdinck
Recorded 14 January 1930 in Liederkrantz Hall,
New York

Full details of the catalogue and matrix
numbers for these recordings are available
on our website

Total duration: **72:54**

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