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DIGITAL AUDIO
PASC 393

W. H. SQUIRE

PRISTINE
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plays Elgar & Saint-Saëns Cello Concertos

Producer's Note

Cellist, composer and pedagogue William Henry Squire was born in Herefordshire in 1871. He studied at the Royal College of Music in London and with Carlo Alfredo Piatti, making his debut in 1891. He played as principal cellist in several London orchestras in addition to his solo career and composed many short works.

Squire's discography extends back to the very beginnings of the recording industry in Britain. He cut his first sides for the Gramophone Company in London in 1898, becoming the first instrumentalist of repute to embrace the new medium. Throughout the Teens and Twenties, he was a mainstay of the Columbia catalog, recording many short works (often accompanied at the piano by Hamilton Harty) as well as chamber music.

In 1926, he made Columbia's first concerto recording using the new electrical process, the Saint-Saëns presented here. This and the Elgar were to be his only concertos on disc. Although a 1931 session produced two sides, they remain unreleased. The Bach and Popper selections from 1929 are his last issued recordings, even though he continued to perform publicly until 1941. He died in 1963 at the age of 91.

Collectors familiar with Squire's Saint-Saëns concerto set know it as the one with "all bass and no top", at least when played back using a recording curve typical of the period. By transferring it with a flat equalization and building up the frequency emphases from the bottom up, however, I have been able to get a more natural result, although the sound is still not state-of-the-art, even for its time.

By contrast, the original engineering of the Elgar concerto is superb for its date, sounding like recordings made several years later. I was helped in its transfer by the use of first-edition white label English Columbia test pressings, whose presence and detail eclipsed even the fine American Columbia "Full-Range" copy with which I compared it. An American Columbia "Viva-Tonal" set was used for the Saint-Saëns concerto, while the solo sides with piano came from early English pressings and the two sides with organ from a mid-1930s American edition.

Mark Obert-Thorn

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

Saint-Saëns
Cello Concerto No. 1

Eight Cello Encores

W.H.Squire, cello
Hallé Orchestra
Sir Hamilton Harty

COLUMBIA STUDIO RECORDINGS, 1926-29

Obert-Thorn

W.H. SQUIRE *Cello Concertos & Encores***SAINT-SAËNS Cello Concerto No. 1 in A minor, Op. 33**

- 1 1st Mvt. - Allegro non troppo (5:42)
- 2 2nd Mvt. - Allegretto con moto (4:59)
- 3 3rd Mvt. - Molto allegro (9:03)
- 4 **GODARD** Berceuse from Jocelyn (3:39)
- 5 **SAINT-SAËNS** The Swan from Carnival of the Animals (3:33)
- 6 **DUNKLER (arr. Squire)** Humoresque (Chanson à boire) (2:49)
- 7 **HANDEL** Largo from Xerxes (3:23)
- 8 **WAGNER (arr. Squire)** Prize Song from Die Meistersinger (3:41)
- 9 **MOZART (arr. Squire)** Ave verum corpus, K.618 (3:48)
- 10 **BACH (arr. Squire)** Air from Orchestral Suite No. 3 in D major, BWV 1068 (4:27)
- 11 **POPPER** Tarantelle (4:34)

ELGAR Cello Concerto in E minor, Op. 85

- 12 1st Mvt. - Adagio (7:17)
- 13 2nd Mvt. - Allegro molto (4:43)
- 14 3rd Mvt. - Adagio (4:38)
- 15 4th Mvt. - Allegro (10:53)

W. H. Squire *cello*

Hallé Orchestra *Sir Hamilton Harty (1-3, 12-15)*
 George Thomas Pattman *organ (8, 9)*
 Uncredited *piano (4-7, 10, 11)*

Producer and Audio Restoration Engineer:
Mark Obert-Thorn

Cover artwork based on a photograph of
W. H. Squire

Special thanks to Nathan Brown, Charles Niss and
 Jon Samuels for providing source material
 Additional pitch stabilisation: Andrew Rose

SAINT-SAËNS Cello Concerto No. 1

Recorded 25 March 1926
 Columbia Studios, Petty France, London
 Matrix nos.: WAX 1414-2, 1416-1, 1416-1, 1417-1,
 1418-4 and 1419-1
 First issued on Columbia L 1800/02

ELGAR Cello Concerto

Recorded 30 November 1928
 Free Trade Hall, Manchester
 Matrix nos.: WAX 4410-1, 4411-1, 4412-1, 4413-3,
 4414-1, 4415-1, 4416-1 and 4417-2
 First issued on Columbia DX 117/9

More recording details can be found online

Total duration: **77:09**

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