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PASC 408

Dohnányi plays Dohnányi, Haydn, Beethoven, Schumann

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Historic Review: Variations on A Nursery Theme

Dohnányi was nearing 80 when he taped his contributions in 1956, and there are moments when his rhythms seize up; then, too, Boult was hardly the most whimsical of the conductors to have taken up the *Variations*, op. 25. Still, the aged composer tosses off a dashing, youthful-sounding performance that catches the warmhearted irony of the music without a trace of exaggeration or self-consciousness. It is, in fact, arguably even more dapper than the recording he made in 1931.

Peter J. Rabinowitz, *Fanfare Magazine*, May/June 2009 (*excerpt*)

Producer's Note

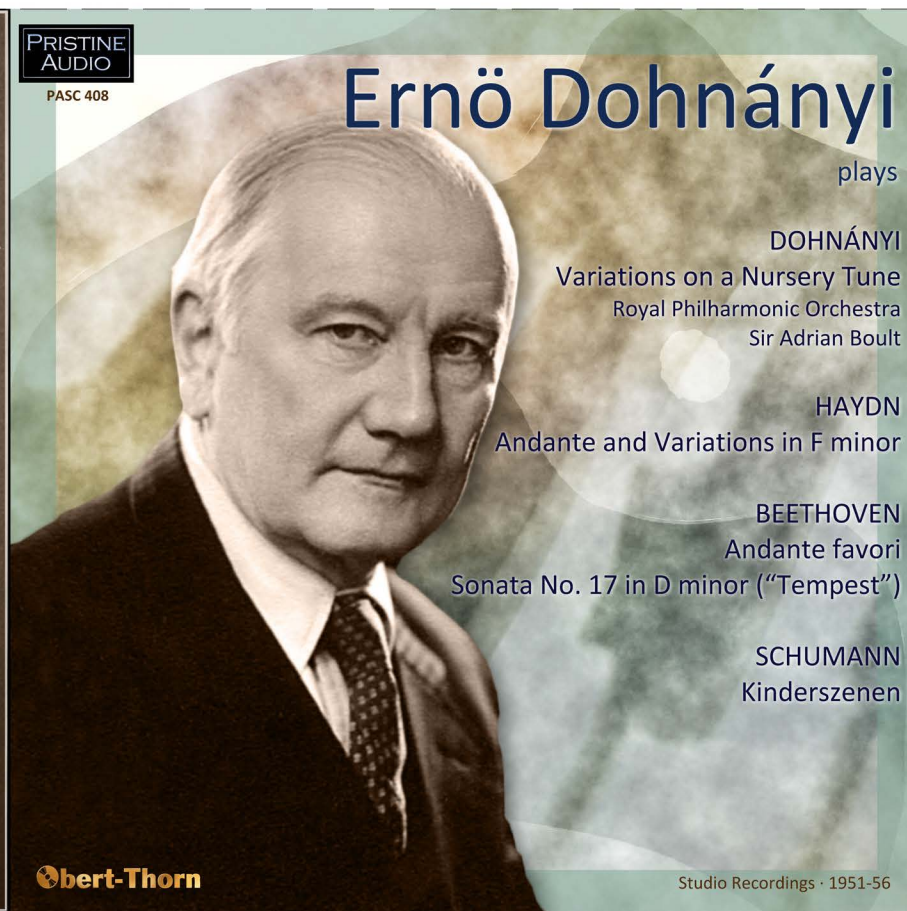
This release completes the reissue of Dohnányi's Remington recordings which was begun with the three Brahms Violin Sonatas with Albert Spalding (Pristine Audio PACM 078) and continued with recordings of his own Violin Sonata (again with Spalding) and Four Rhapsodies (PASC 381).

As with the previous reissues, Remington's original engineering and pressings posed several restoration challenges. Probably the most significant hurdle was locating quiet pressings in good condition. Remington was the original "budget" LP label, and their cost-cutting manifested itself most noticeably in the quality (or lack thereof) of the material on which they were pressed. Initial releases featured a hard, plastic-like compound high in surface noise, while later issues were on somewhat quieter vinyl. All of the Remington recordings on the current release were taken from pristine copies of the later editions.

In the case of the Schumann *Kinderszenen* (with spoken announcements in English by the pianist), this posed a dilemma. The early pressings are extremely noisy, with some of the softer passages almost lost in surface crackle. In the later pressings, however, there appears to be a tape tracking problem which causes a watery sound on some of the selections. In the case of "Wichtige Begebenheit", these were serious enough that I was forced to patch in the version from the earlier pressing. For the remaining items, I felt that the trade-off favored the later edition, even with its flaws.

No such reservations need apply to the EMI recording of Dohnányi's *Variations on a Nursery Tune* with Boult. Recorded at the same sessions as his Second Piano Concerto (PASC 381), it was a return to a work the composer/pianist had first recorded in London 25 years earlier under Lawrance Collingwood (PASC 252), but this time on stereo tape rather than wax 78 rpm masters. It has been transferred here from a British LP pressing. **Mark Obert-Thorn**

FULL PROGRAMME NOTES CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM
SARL Pristine Audio, 144 Rue de l'Eglise, 24610 St. Méard de Gurçon, France



Ernö Dohnányi

plays

DOHNÁNYI
Variations on a Nursery Tune
Royal Philharmonic Orchestra
Sir Adrian Boult

HAYDN
Andante and Variations in F minor

BEETHOVEN
Andante favori
Sonata No. 17 in D minor ("Tempest")

SCHUMANN
Kinderszenen

obert-Thorn

Studio Recordings · 1951-56

Ernö Dohnányi *Plays*

- 1 HAYDN Andante and Variations in F minor, Hob. XVII:6 (10:38)
 - 2 BEETHOVEN Andante favori in F major, WoO 57 (7:47)
 - BEETHOVEN** Piano Sonata No. 17 in D minor, Op. 31, No. 2 ("Tempest")
 - 1 1st mvt. - Largo - Allegro (5:46)
 - 2 2nd mvt. - Adagio (6:46)
 - 3 3rd mvt. - Allegretto (6:32)
 - SCHUMANN** Kinderszenen, Op. 15 (Scenes of childhood)
 - 1 1. Von fremden Ländern und Menschen (About strange lands and people) (1:42)
 - 2 2. Kuriose Geschichte (Curious story) (1:07)
 - 3 3. Hasche-Mann (Playing tag) (0:37)
 - 4 4. Bittendes Kind (Entreating child) (1:12)
 - 5 5. Glückes genug (Contentment) (0:44)
 - 6 6. Wichtige Begebenheit (Important event) (1:00)
 - 7 7. Traumerei (Dreaming) (2:56)
 - 8 8. Am Kamin (By the fireside) (1:10)
 - 9 9. Ritter vom Steckenpferd (The knight of the hobbyhorse) (0:42)
 - 10 10. Fast zu Ernst (Almost too serious) (1:54)
 - 11 11. Fürchtenmachen (The bogeyman) (1:47)
 - 12 12. Kind im Einschlummern (Child falling asleep) (2:17)
 - 13 13. Der Dichter spricht (The poet speaks) (1:36)
 - 19 DOHNÁNYI Variations on a Nursery Tune, Op. 25 (23:05) [STEREO]
- Royal Philharmonic Orchestra *Sir Adrian Boult*

Ernö Dohnányi *piano*

Producer & Audio Restoration Engineer:
Mark Obert-Thorn

Cover artwork based on a photograph
of Ernő Dohnányi

Tracks 1 – 5
First issued on Remington RLP-199-16, rec. 1951

Tracks 6 – 18
First issued on Remington RLP-199-43, rec. 1951

Track 19 (stereo recording)
First issued on HMV ALP 1514, rec. 10 – 11
September 1956 in Abbey Road Studio 1, London

Special thanks to Nathan Brown, Richard Kaplan and
Donald Manildi for providing source material

Additional pitch stabilisation (Tracks 1 – 18):
Andrew Rose

Total duration: 79:18

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