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JASCHA HORENSTEIN
Korngold • Rathaus • Schreker

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Karol Rathaus was one of Horenstein's oldest and closest friends. A fellow student of Schreker's, they grew up and studied together in Vienna and then in Berlin, both their careers developed simultaneously and rapidly, both survived the Nazi period in exile in France and in America and both men saw a dramatic downturn in their fortunes after the war. But while Horenstein was eventually able to resurrect his career, Rathaus, whose music was so admired during the Weimar period, was excommunicated, cold-shouldered by the post-war realignment of musical priorities that cast him out of consideration and from where he has still not fully emerged. He died in 1954 at the age of only fifty-nine, a respected and honored professor of music at Queens College in New York but dispirited, disappointed and totally neglected as a composer.

Erich Wolfgang Korngold and Horenstein, almost exact contemporaries, were both raised and educated in Vienna before and during the First World War. In April 1916 Korngold's one-act tragic opera "Violanta" received its local premiere at the Hofopertheater conducted by Leopold Reichwein. Recalling the event many years later Horenstein told an interviewer that he and his Academy friends, probably jealous of Korngold's wunderkind status, went to the premiere intending to boo and make trouble but instead were so captivated by the opera that at the end they carried Korngold through the streets on their shoulders like a hero.

Contrary to what is generally assumed, **Franz Schreker** was not Horenstein's composition teacher at the Academy of Music in Vienna. He did study with him as a private student but only later joined his class after Schreker moved to the Hochschule in Berlin in 1920. Schreker was not enamoured of Horenstein's skills as a composer but very quickly recognized his true talent, procuring for him his first conducting job while still a student, in charge of two choirs directed until then by Hermann Scherchen.

Misha Horenstein (excerpts from notes available online at *Pristine Classical*)

Producer's Note

These three rare recordings offer a fascinating insight into Horenstein's musical friends and contemporaries: each composer, in his own way, was close to the conductor's heart. The main item, Rathaus's Symphony No. 3, was receiving its world premiere in an audience-free BBC studio, some 13 years after it was completed, and two years after the composer's death. The Schreker was another BBC recording, this time from a live concert at Maida Vale. Finally, the Korngold was recorded in stereo by Decca engineer Kenneth Wilkinson and produced by the composer's son, George Korngold, during spare time following a 1965 Reader's Digest session with the Royal Philharmonic. There is considerable variation in sound quality: the 1965 stereo Korngold is by far the best, and we're grateful to the RPO for permission to release it here in light of considerable confusion over copyright ownership. The other two works were transcribed at some point from disc sources unknown; the Rathaus is the better of the two, with a wider tonal and dynamic range, while the top end is somewhat limited on the Schreker, though both have enormously improved by XR remastering over the thin and shrill source material with which I began.

Andrew Rose

Horenstein

RATHAUS Symphony No. 3 - world première



KORNGOLD Prelude and Carnival Music from Violanta
SCHREKER Prelude to a Drama

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA • ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA • BBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Broadcast and Studio recordings, 1956-1965

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RATHAUS SYMPHONY No. 3 - MUSIC BY KORNGOLD AND SCHRECKER
HORENSTEIN, LSO, BBC SO, RPO

HORENSTEIN *Korngold - Rathaus - Schrecker*

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☐ **KORNGOLD** Prelude and Carnival Music from **Violanta** (1914) (9:11)

Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

Kingsway Hall, London

2 June 1965

Released with kind permission of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

XR remastering by Andrew Rose

Recordings from the collection of
Misha Horenstein

Cover artwork based on a
photograph of Jascha Horenstein

Total duration: 71:50

RATHAUS Symphony No.3, Op. 50 (1942-43)

☐ 1st mvt. - Andante (12:12)

☐ 2nd mvt. - Scherzo (6:37)

☐ 3rd mvt. - Andantino (10:37)

☐ 4th mvt. - Allegro appassionata (11:15)

London Symphony Orchestra

BBC Farringdon Studios, London

13 March 1956

World première performance and recording

☐ Radio introduction to Schrecker (0:47)

☐ **SCHRECKER** Prelude to a Drama (1913) (21:11)

BBC Symphony Orchestra

BBC Maida Vale Studio 1, London

16 November 1957

BBC Third Programme, 8pm broadcast

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Jascha Horenstein, conductor

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