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PASC 633

# Artur Rodziński

at the NBC - Volume One

Pristine  
XR

## Rodziński at the NBC - an Introduction

After initially refusing to accept any American engagement, Toscanini changed his mind and took an offer from the National Broadcasting Company of a new specially-created orchestra for a series of radio concerts. Toscanini, who was enraged at the New York Philharmonic's board for not following his advice and engaging Barbirolli to succeed him at the Philharmonic instead of Rodziński, insisted that David Sarnoff, president of RCA, hire Rodziński to recruit and train the new NBC orchestra. Toscanini was a great admirer of Rodziński, speaking of him on several occasions as his successor. Furthermore, he recognized that Rodziński had already acquired a reputation as an outstanding orchestra builder with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Cleveland Orchestra and later with the New York Philharmonic. A long article in the *Herald Tribune* under the title "Tuning up the Band" described Artur's five weeks of training the new NBC orchestra:

*Eagerly awaiting the arrival of Maestro Arturo Toscanini, 92 musicians have turned the largest studio in Radio City into a beehive of activity as they rehearse under the baton of drill master Artur Rodziński. The assignment to organize the orchestra... is to Mr. Rodziński "the answer to a conductor's dream... to me this commission brought nothing but pleasure. It is the answer to a lifelong dream." During the five weeks' intensive rehearsal Mr. Rodziński will put the musicians through their musical paces, molding the distinguished individual talent into a unit he hopes will become recognized as one of the finest symphonic bodies of its kind. The orchestra is unique in this respect, the conductor added, insofar as it came into being in full bloom rather than through the process of various stages of growth that usually mark the development of many other symphonic groups. "I am more than elated with the progress up to now. When I heard the strings after the first rehearsal I wept for pure joy"*

On November 8, 1937 Rodziński conducted the debut broadcast which had been tagged a "dress rehearsal" followed by 10 concerts during the first two seasons, sharing the podium with Pierre Monteux and Arturo Toscanini. This release is drawn entirely from the first full concert given by Rodziński and the orchestra on 4 December 1937. It was the orchestra's fifth broadcast, following the short Rodziński 'dress rehearsal' of 2 November and three full concerts given under Monteux. Toscanini's first NBC concert took place on 25 December 1937.

Richard Rodzinski (with additional material from Halina Rodziński, *Our Two Lives*, 1976)



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RODZIŃSKI, NBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

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1. RADIO Introduction (1:24)

## HANDEL-HARTY Water Music Suite

2. I. Allegro (2:30)
3. II. Air (5:32)
4. III. Bourée (0:42)
5. IV. Hornpipe (0:57)
6. V. Andante espressivo (3:57)
7. VI. Allegro deciso (3:11)

8. SIBELIUS Pohjola's Daughter, Op. 49 (16:00)

## DEBUSSY Nocturnes

9. I. Nuages (9:31)
10. II. Fêtes (6:04)

## BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 5 in C minor, Op. 67

11. 1st mvt. - Allegro con brio (6:02)
12. 2nd mvt. - Andante con moto (10:12)
13. 3rd mvt. - Scherzo. Allegro - Trio (5:06)
14. 4th mvt. - Allegro (8:21)

NBC Symphony Orchestra  
conducted by Artur Rodziński

XR Remastered in Ambient Stereo by **Andrew Rose**  
Cover artwork based on a photograph of Artur Rodziński and Arturo Toscanini  
Broadcast of 4 December, 1937 - Special thanks to **Richard Rodzinski**

Total duration: 79:29

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