

Max Reger's music was very popular in the Netherlands, and Reger's concert tour in March 1916 was but a small part of a larger mosaic that reflects the great interest in his music. Willem Mengelberg and a large number of other musicians made a name for themselves as performers of Reger's music; during the Second World-War, the Netherlands occupied by the Nazis, Eduard van Beinum conducted the Concertgebouworkest Amsterdam in recordings of the Ballet Suite and the Mozart Variations (for Polydor); Eugen Jochum recorded the Serenade in G for Telefunken, and Hermann Abendroth the Böcklin Suite in a radio broadcast.

The last recorded performance of a Reger work with the Concertgebouworkest during the war was the Violin Concerto in 1944, with the soloist Georg Kulenkampff, who had caused a sensation a few years previously with the premiere performance of Robert Schumann's Violin Concerto in Berlin; nowadays Kulenkampff's fame is marred by his close association with the Nazis. Unfortunately, the recording under Willem van Otterloo is not quite complete: While the first movement is unaltered, a few short passages in the second (bars 43–53) and third movement (bars 421–455 and 507–542) were deleted and the transitions recomposed. In one letter, though feeling it was impossible to cut his work substantially, Reger had showed himself open to minor cuts – but it is not known whether these ever took place and who edited those heard here.

Willem van Otterloo, who directed the Residentie Orkest from 1949 to 1973 and who extensively recorded with his orchestra for Philips, remained loyal to Reger as a conductor and recorded the Mozart Variations and the Romantic Suite with the Residentie Orkest Den Haag in the mid-1950s; the performance of the latter work in particular sets special accents through its tense elegance and is one of the best interpretations of the work to date.

As a special bonus, we offer five small pieces by Reger for violin, some with piano - including the very first known shellac recording of a piece by Reger, from 1915. Issay Barmas and Adolf Busch were in close contact with Reger and gave concerts with him; the pianist in the Barmas performance is not given on the Polyphon disc label. Both performers later produced their own editions of some of Reger's music.

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otterloo
conducts reger

Pristine
XR
PASC 707

reger
violin concerto
georg kulenkampff, violin
concertgebouw orchestra of amsterdam

mozart variations
a romantic suite
residentie orchestra of the hague

with five bonus tracks featuring:
adolf busch
issay barmas
efrem zimbalist
georg kulenkampff

live & studio recordings, 1915-1957

otterloo conducts reger



PASC 707

disc one (54:46)

REGER Violin Concerto in A major, Op. 101

1. 1st mvt. - Allegro moderato (24:49)
2. 2nd mvt. - Largo con gran espressione (17:35)
3. 3rd mvt. - Allegro moderato (12:22)

Netherlands Radio broadcast performance
Amsterdam Concertgebouw, 16 January 1944

Georg Kulenkampff, violin

Concertgebouw Orchestra of Amsterdam

disc two (75:45)

REGER Variations & Fugue on a Theme by Mozart, Op. 132

1. Theme. Andante grazioso (2:07)
2. Variation I. L'istesso tempo (*quasi un poco più lento*) (2:21)
3. Variation II. Poco agitato (1:46)
4. Variation III. Con moto (1:12)
5. Variation IV. Vivace (0:45)
6. Variation V. Quasi presto (1:24)
7. Variation VI. Sostenuto (*quasi Adagietto*) (2:07)
8. Variation VII. Andante grazioso (2:23)
9. Variation VIII. Molto sostenuto (6:35)
10. Fuge. Allegretto grazioso (9:51)

Studio recording, 26-27 March 1957 - Philips A 00486 L

REGER A Romantic Suite, Op. 125

11. 1st mvt. - Notturmo: Molto sostenuto (10:05)
12. 2nd mvt. - Scherzo: Vivace (7:19)
13. 3rd mvt. - Finale: Molto sostenuto (10:57)

Studio recording, 9-10 March 1956 - Philips A 00486 L

Residency Orchestra of The Hague

conducted by Willem van Otterloo

BONUS TRACKS

14. REGER Suite in A minor, Op. 103a

1. Praeludium (5:15)

Georg Kulenkampff, violin

Hermann Hoppe, piano

Studio recording, 1926 - Polydor 95018

15. REGER Sonata in A minor for solo violin, Op. 91, No. 1

3. Andante sostenuto (3:55)

Georg Kulenkampff, violin

Studio recording, November 1936 - Telefunken E2078

16. REGER Romanze in G major, WoO II/10 (1:47)

Issay Barmas, violin

Anon., piano

Studio recording, before 1919 - Polyphon 947977

17. REGER Sonata in A major for solo violin, Op. 42, No. 2

2. Andantino (3:15)

Efrem Zimbalist, violin

Studio recording, 8 June 1915 - His Master's Voice DA403

18. REGER Violin Sonata in F sharp minor, Op. 84

2. Allegretto (poco vivace) (2:40)

Adolf Busch, violin

Rudolf Serkin, piano

Studio recording, Small Queen's Hall, London, 7 May 1931

His Master's Voice DB 1523/7236

XR remastered by Andrew Rose

Special thanks to Dr. Jürgen Schaarwächter

Produced in co-operation with the

Max-Reger-Institut, Karlsruhe, Germany

Total Duration: 2hr 10:31



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