

CRQ Editions: Winter 2017 / 2018

CRQ Editions' headline release for the end of 2017 is the first public release of the first night of Herbert von Karajan's exquisite production of Debussy's opera 'Pelléas et Mélisande' at the Vienna State Opera, given on 6th January 1962. For this production Karajan draws superb playing from the Orchestra of the Vienna State Opera (or the Vienna Philharmonic when off-duty), which performs with a delicacy exactly suited to the music. He had also obviously coached his excellent cast with the greatest care: all the principals - led by Hilde Güden, Henri Gui, Eberhard Wächter and Nicola Zaccaria - are excellent with no weak links at all. The results are really excellent: this memorable performance, which has been captured in very good sound, is drenched in a twilight atmosphere exactly suited to Debussy's masterpiece.

Our catalogue of desirable recordings featuring the legendary conductor Leopold Stokowski in action continues to yield some amazing treasures, none more so than our latest release of Stokowski conducting heartland repertoire in London's Royal Albert Hall during 1973. These 'in-house' recordings were originally made for the Maestro's personal use, and include readings of Elgar's Enigma Variations and Rachmaninoff's Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, with Ilana Vered as soloist, that the critics of the time hailed as truly memorable. Works by Brahms, Tchaikovsky and J.S. Bach complete this attractive programme, which is definitely not to be missed.

The top seller from our summer release was Jascha Horenstein conducting Bruckner and Liszt from Gothenburg in Sweden, so we are building on this success with a further release featuring performances from Horenstein's concerts there. This two CD release includes a single complete concert from October 1969 with Philippe Entremont on sparkling form in Saint-Saëns' Second Piano Concerto, as well as Horenstein's only known recorded account of Schubert's Symphony No. 9, the 'Great' C major. In addition the programme contains a vigorous reading of Mozart's 'Haffner' Symphony, arias from Handel's 'Rinaldo' sung by the British soprano Jennifer Vyvyan, and J. S. Bach's First Brandenburg Concerto. The set is completed by two fabulous appendices: Mozart's scintillating concert aria 'Chio mi scordi di te' performed with great style by soprano Elizabeth Harwood, pianist David Wilde and the BBC Symphony Orchestra at the 1971 BBC Promenade Concerts, and the blistering final rehearsal of Beethoven's 'Egmont Overture' with the American Symphony Orchestra at Carnegie Hall in New York City, from November 1969.

Another CRQ Editions best seller has been the Romanian conductor, violinist and composer Georges Enescu. After the Second World War Enescu recorded quite extensively for the small American record label Remington and from these we now publish a CD which features Enescu both conducting his own music – the two Romanian Rhapsodies and the Dixtuor for wind instruments – and performing his Second Violin Sonata, with the brilliant French pianist Céliny Chailley-Richez. Despite the age of these post-war recordings, the sound remains eminently respectable, while the performances are historically of the first rank.

Sir Adrian Boult has many devoted followers both in the United Kingdom and internationally. With the help of several Boult experts, we have now been able to assemble a two CD set containing previously unpublished broadcasts from the BBC with Boult conducting both unusual and staple repertoire. The composers featured include Dvořák, Ravel, and Bartók – not musicians with whom Sir Adrian was immediately associated – as well as Vaughan

Williams, Granville Bantock and Lennox Berkeley, all closer to home. The set is completed by a ten minute personal reminiscence of Bantock by Boult, who knew him well.

The recent death of the pianist Kyla Greenbaum has prompted the creation of a CD devoted to recordings representing musical life in post-war London. This contains Greenbaum's only known commercial recordings, firstly of Tchaikovsky's First Piano Concerto with another stalwart of the period, Richard Austin, conducting, and secondly of Constant Lambert's 'Rio Grande' with the composer himself conducting. The set is completed by the Suite from one of Lambert's major works, the ballet score 'Horoscope' with one of his pupils, Robert Irving, conducting. This is a very enjoyable CD with many fascinating musical cross references.

Despite recording in the very earliest days of the gramophone, the Anglo-Russian conductor Albert Coates continues to exert considerable fascination for record collectors world-wide. The second of our two CD sets devoted to some of Coates's rarer recordings, curated by Damian Rogan, bring together several varied repertoire strands. The first CD is devoted to Coates conducting the music of Richard Strauss: the three tone poems Don Juan, Till Eulenspiegel and Tod und Verklärung, as well as substantial extracts from Strauss's opera 'Salome' with the Swedish soprano Göta Ljungberg in the title role. The second CD sees Coates as a conductor of choral music, with several works featuring the chorus of the British National Opera Company - a pioneering opera company of the inter-war years - and concludes with a selection of pieces by Richard Wagner, the composer for whom Coates is perhaps best known today as an interpreter. As always with Coates these are performances of enormous drive and character, not to be missed.

Our books division is this quarter publishing Philip Stuart's massive discography of the record labels managed by Marcel Rodd, 'Classics Club / Saga, 1956-1986, a discographical adventure' (available for free download or as paid-for print). To mark the appearance of this major work we will be revisiting the Classics Club and Saga labels with some carefully selected reissues from these always eclectic catalogues. First off is a fine disc of chamber music that originally appeared on the Saga label featuring the Boise Trio in Piano Trios by Beethoven and Mendelssohn as well as the Debussy Violin Sonata, played by the Trio's violinist Hugh Bean and pianist David Parkhouse, who was married to the Trio's cellist Eileen Croxford. These very fine performances, originally offered at budget price, opened up the world of chamber music to many people in the 1960s and 1970s.

From the Classics Club stable we have taken recordings of the little-known German conductor Ernst Schrader, whose few surviving recordings appeared initially in the USA on the Urania label, which Rodd licensed for the Classics Club label. This release is the seventh in our series devoted the Urania conductors. The programme is wide ranging and includes Max Reger's Ballet Suite, Dvořák's Symphony No. 7 and Weber's Concertino for clarinet and orchestra, featuring the principal clarinetist of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, Alfred Buerkner. All of these recordings, featuring Schrader conducting the Berlin and Dresden Philharmonic Orchestras, are likely to have been made during the Second World War.

This quarter we conclude our on-going series devoted to the recordings of the piano sonatas of Schubert made for the Vox LP label by Friedrich Wührer. This issue contains five piano sonatas which were left incomplete by the composer. The two CD set is completed by the famous piano recital which Wührer recorded for French Radio in Paris in 1961. The programme for this focuses on Schubert and Brahms, central repertoire for this powerful and unduly neglected pianist.

As well as the Classics Club and Saga discography another item of interest to appear this quarter is a DVD-ROM chronicling the San Francisco Opera under the leadership of Kurt Herbert Adler, with over 60 performances in mp3 format from 1960 to 1982, an especially rich period in the company's distinguished history. And as an early Christmas present for all our customers we are offering a free download of Sir Thomas Beecham's rare second recording for the BBC of Bizet's opera, 'The Fair Maid of Perth', performed in 1956 and featuring soprano Mattiwilda Dobbs and tenor Alexander Young, the one Beecham live opera recording to escape out 'Beecham conducts opera live' DVD-ROM which appeared a few months ago. Happy listening!