

CRQ Editions: Spring 2017

The Spring 2017 schedule of CRQ Editions commences with a two-CD set featuring a pair of outstanding performances from Chicago, the home of the unparalleled Chicago Symphony Orchestra. The first recording features Sir Georg Solti conducting a mesmerising performance from 1975 of the Verdi Requiem with a crack team of soloists led by the great Leontyne Price, who recently celebrated her ninetieth birthday. With both the Chicago Symphony Chorus and Orchestra on brilliant form this is a reading of the Verdi Requiem that really delivers. Coupled with it is a magisterial account of Bruckner's Seventh Symphony with the Chicago Orchestra conducted by Hans Schmidt-Isserstedt from 1968. Once again the Orchestra plays at its peak, to create a truly memorable performance.

Albert Spalding was one of the earlier American violin virtuosos to achieve international recognition. Over-shadowed now by numerous later musicians he was a central figure in American musical life during the last century. His historic account of the first performance of Samuel Barber's lush Violin Concerto, given in 1941 with the Philadelphia Orchestra under Eugene Ormandy, was a musical event of the first importance, as may be heard on our second Spring release. This CD also contains two rare but excellent recordings from the desirable Remington LP label: firstly Spalding in partnership with the Hungarian composer and pianist Ernst von Dohnányi playing the First Violin Sonata of Brahms, 'Regen', and secondly Dohnányi both introducing and playing Schumann's 'Kinderszenen' – these are performances of real charm.

Sir Charles Groves was throughout his distinguished career as a conductor a redoubtable champion of English music. We have brought together recordings of BBC broadcasts from two 1967 Promenade Concerts with Groves conducting music by four British masters: Walton (Scapino Overture), Vaughan Williams (Serenade to Music), Delius (Appalachia) and Robert Simpson. The last-named is represented by his Third Symphony, a powerful work too little known today, and here receiving a clearly out-standing reading by Sir Charles and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. The programme is completed by a witty reading of Haydn's Symphony No. 93. Excellent BBC sound engineering throughout.

The Spanish pianist José Cubiles is hardly known at all today, but during his lifetime he was considered the leading pianist of his generation and a very senior member of the Spanish musical establishment. He was the preferred performer of the composer Manuel de Falla for the solo part in de Falla's evocative 'Nights in the Garden of Spain', and on our fourth new release, produced by Alan Sanders, he can be heard in a recording of this magical work from the 1942 Salzburg Festival with Ernest Ansermet conducting the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra. This is complemented by a reissue of a rare Spanish LP of Cubiles giving a recital of Spanish solo piano music in an uniquely muscular style of performance, with repertoire stretching from Soler to Granados, Albéniz and de Falla.

Leopold Stokowski's live recordings taken from concerts given at Carnegie Hall, New York, with his American Symphony Orchestra, produced by Edward Johnson, have proved to be very popular indeed. We are now pleased to be able to release a two CD album that contains not only Stokowski's last concert to be given in America with the ASO, but also a very varied programme of Russian favourites. His final concert featured his only account of the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto to be captured on tape, with Itzhak Perlman as a virtuoso soloist. Very good unofficial stereo recorded sound.

Like Stokowski, Sir Adrian Boult is a conductor whose recordings remains extraordinarily popular. Thanks to a CRQ Editions' customer, David Lax, we are now able to release a previously unpublished 1965 studio recording of Boult conducting the New Philharmonia Orchestra in the Suite Symphonique Méditerranéenne composed by the Russian Sergei Barsukov. Little is known about Barsukov; he evidently taught Rachmaninov's children the piano, so he must have been a considerable musician. His rich Mediterranean Suite score was composed after the Second World

War following his move to the South of France from America. Coupled with this is Barsukov's Second Piano Concerto, with the composer as soloist, and Boult's earlier 1955 recording for Decca with the Paris Conservatoire Orchestra of the Suite from the incidental music which Prokofiev composed for the Russian film 'Lieutenant Kijé'.

Another great conductor was the Anglo-Russian maestro Albert Coates, who was a pupil of Artur Nikisch before establishing a top-flight career in Tsarist Russia. Returning to England after the Russian Revolution, Coates became a mainstay of orchestral and operatic recording during the 1920s, creating a very large discography indeed. We are now releasing in excellent transfers by Damian Rogan his extraordinary 1923 recording of Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 'Choral', which contains some brilliant if unusual musicianship. This set also includes his early recordings of Scriabin's 'Poem of Ecstasy', Wagner's 'Siegfried Idyll' and a truncated account of Rimsky-Korsakov's 'Scheherazade', as well as several choral items. Coates is a conductor well worth investigating.

The great Swedish tenor Nicolai Gedda died recently and in tribute to his great artistry and extraordinary career we are releasing a fine transfer by Jim Bostwick of his very first operatic recital for EMI, taken from a mint copy of the original LP. Recorded in 1953 at Kingsway Hall, London this recital makes it immediately clear why such central figures in European music at this time, notably Walter Legge and Herbert von Karajan, sat up and took notice of Gedda.

Another great operatic figure, albeit from another epoch and but also like Gedda working in the field of operetta, was the German soprano Anni Frind. She too was quickly launched on a brilliant career, displaying great charm in her work both on stage and in her recordings. These included several short ten minute 'pot-pourris' of highlights from favourites operettas. Working from a rare Pentacles LP produced by Thomas Woods in San Francisco, our CD tribute to Anni Frind contains six of these pot-pourris: Die Kaiserin (Fall), Paganini (Lehár), Meisterporträt (Lortzing), Die Csardasfürstin (Kálmán), Boccaccio (Suppé) and Der Bettelstudent (Millöcker).

Our final releases focus on two of the finest musicians whose recordings appeared frequently during the 1950s: the Austrian pianist Ingrid Haebler and the Dutch conductor Eduard van Beinum. Haebler is represented by the final volume in our survey of her early recordings of the Mozart Piano Concertos. Made for Vox and Philips, all in Vienna, these recordings, transferred to CD by Graham Silcock, represented a peak in the recordings of the Mozart piano concertos at the time of their publication, and they still retain the ability to hold the listener with their strong sense of Mozartean style.

Eduard van Beinum's recordings with the Amsterdam Concertgebouw Orchestra were a mainstay of the Decca and Philips catalogues in the 1950, but many of them, despite their excellence, have since sunk without trace. Our tribute to this great partnership, produced by Antony Hodgson, contains joyous accounts of two of the Schubert symphonies, the Third and the Sixth, and what for many critics remains the very best recording of Mendelssohn's Fourth Symphony, the 'Italian'.