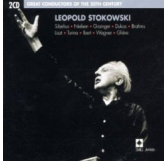


### Great Conductors of the 20th Century Vol.23 - Leopold Stokowski



CD1 Sibelius: Symphony No.1 in E minor, Op.39 1. *I. Andante, Ma Non Troppo - Allegro Energico* 2. *II. Andante (Ma Non Troppo Lento)* 3. *III. Scherzo. Allegro - Lento (Ma Non Troppo) - Tempo I* 4. *IV. Finale (Quasi Una Fantasia). Andante - Allegro Molto*  
Nielsen: Symphony No.2, Op.16 'The Four Temperaments'  
5. *I. Allegro Collerico* 6. *II. Allegro Comodo E Flemmatico* 7. *III. Andante Malincolico* 8. *IV. Allegro Sanguineo*  
Grainger: Handel in the Strand, Country Gardens & Shepherd's Hey  
9. *Handel In The Strand* 10. *Country Gardens* 11. *Shepherd's Hey*  
National Philharmonic Orchestra (1-4) Danish State Radio Symphony Orchestra (5-8) Leopold Stokowski & His Symphony Orchestra (9-11) CD2  
1. *Paul Dukas - No.1: Fanfare* 2. *Johannes Brahms - Tragic Overture, Op.81* 3. *Franz Liszt - Hungarian Rhapsody In F Minor, S359 No.1* 4. *Joaquin Turina - La Oracion Del Torero, Op.34*  
Jacques Ibert : Escales  
5. *I. Rome - Palermo. Calme* 6. *II. Tunis - Nefta. Modere, Tres Rythme* 7. *III. Valencia. Anime* 8. *Richard Wagner - Tristan Und Isolde: Love Music* 9. *Reinhold Gliere - The Red Poppy - Concert Suite, Op.70 No.6: Russian Sailor's Dance*  
Leopold Stokowski & His Symphony Orchestra (1, 4, 9) National Philharmonic Orchestra (2) Members of the NBC Symphony Orchestra (3) Orchestre National de la Radiodiffusion Française (5-7) The Philadelphia Orchestra (8) Leopold Stokowski – conductor

Leopold Stokowski, born in London in 1882, began his long career as an organist but realised his desire to become a conductor in 1909. In 1912 he was appointed conductor of the Philadelphia Orchestra and over the course of nearly three decades built it into one of the finest of all symphonic ensembles. He championed modern composers, brought classical music to cinemagoers in Walt Disney's *Fantasia*, and during the 1940s formed the All-American Youth Orchestra, the New York City Symphony and the Hollywood Bowl Symphony, then guest-conducted the New York Philharmonic. In 1951 returned to England and began an illustrious international career. In 1962, he founded the American Symphony Orchestra in New York. When he died in England at the age of 95, he was still one of the most celebrated and beloved conductors in the world.

The rarities in this lively anthology include, pre-eminently, Stokowski's live performance of Nielsen's Second Symphony, given in the composer's native city when the 85-year-old conductor visited Copenhagen in 1967. This recording is released internationally for the first time. Throughout Stokowski's long career, another Scandinavian composer, Sibelius, was an abiding passion. The conductor premiered the last three of the composer's symphonies in the US. He first performed the First Symphony in 1910 in Cincinnati in his late 20s, but the astonishingly vigorous and deeply felt performance included here was recorded in London in 1976, when the conductor was nearly 95. In 1950, Stokowski asked the composer Percy Grainger to make special orchestral arrangements of a number of his most famous compositions and recorded them with Grainger himself as pianist. These 'Versions for Stokowski' are issued here for the first time on CD. The recordings of Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody No.1, a notable addition to the conductor's discography, and Glière's invigorating Russian Sailors' Dance are also new to CD. Elsewhere, Stokowski's wizardry is brought to bear on colourful scores by Dukas, Ibert and Turina and in his own arrangement of the 'love music' from Wagner's Tristan und Isolde. --- bayreuthclassical.blogspot.com

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Written by bluesever

Thursday, 10 January 2013 17:26 -

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