

1958

Eightieth Season

1959

UNIVERSITY MUSICAL SOCIETY
THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Charles A. Sink, President

Gail W. Rector, Executive Director

Lester McCoy, Conductor

First Concert

Thirteenth Annual Extra Series

Complete Series 3242

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

FRITZ REINER, *Conductor*

MONDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 6, 1958, AT 8:30
HILL AUDITORIUM, ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

PROGRAM

Overture, "The Corsair," Op. 21 BERLIOZ

*Divertimento, "The Fairy's Kiss," Allegorical
Ballet STRAVINSKY
Sinfonia
Danses Suisses
Scherzo
Pas de deux: adagio, variation, coda

*Interlude and Dance from *La Vida breve* FALLA

INTERMISSION

Suite for Orchestra No. 1, Op. 3 BARTÓK
Allegro vivace
Poco adagio
Presto
Moderato
Molto vivace

* Recorded by Fritz Reiner and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra for RCA-Victor.
The Chicago Symphony Orchestra uses the Baldwin Piano.

NOTE.—The University Musical Society has presented the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in the Choral Union Series on 20 previous occasions; and at the May Festivals from 1905 to 1935 inclusive, totaling 184 concert performances.

A R S L O N G A V I T A B R E V I S

PROGRAM NOTES

by AARAND PARSONS

Overture, "The Corsair," Op. 21 HECTOR BERLIOZ

The overture begins with a stormy passage for the strings, answered by chords in the wind instruments. After this has been repeated a number of times the composer leads into an *Adagio*, which may be interpreted as indicative of the Corsair's "tender nature." The tumultuous introduction is then repeated with modulations until a new subject appears in the brass instruments. This energetic and firm theme is then elaborated at length. Particularly interesting is the canon in the octave which the composer has given to the basses and to the trumpets and trombones; so, too, the manner in which he completely changes the theme's decisiveness into tenderness, as if to illustrate "the strange combination of apparently contradictory feelings."

Divertimento, "The Fairy's Kiss," Allegorical Ballet IGOR STRAVINSKY

Stravinsky composed the ballet *The Fairy's Kiss* (*Le Baiser de la fée*) in 1928 at the request of the dancer, Ida Rubinstein. In his *Chronicle of My Life* (1936) Stravinsky tells the story of how he came to write this ballet based on the music of Tchaikovsky. He writes: ". . . As with my other ballets, I made an orchestral suite from the music of *Le Baiser de la fée*, which can be played without much difficulty by reason of the restricted size of the orchestra required. I often conduct this suite myself, and I like doing so, all the more because in it I tried a style of writing and orchestration which was new to me, and was one by means of which the music could be appreciated at the first hearing."

Stravinsky included the following dedication to Tchaikovsky in the score of the ballet: "I dedicate this ballet to the memory of Peter Tchaikovsky, identifying his Muse with this fairy, and it is in this that the ballet becomes an allegory. This muse has similarly marked him with her fatal kiss, whose mysterious imprint made itself felt in all the work of this great artist." The ballet is in four scenes which are described in the score as follows:

I. "The Lullaby in the Storm. A mother, lulling her child, struggles through the storm. The Fairy's attendant sprites appear and pursue her. They separate her from the infant and carry him off. The Fairy herself appears. She approaches the child and enfolds him with her tenderness. Then she kisses him on the forehead and goes away. Now he is alone. Country folk, passing him, search vainly for his mother, and, deeply distressed, take him with them.

II. "A Village Fête. A peasant dance is in progress, with musicians on the stage. Among the dancers are a young man and his fiancée. The musicians and the crowd disperse, and, his fiancée going away with them, the young man remains alone. The Fairy approaches him in the guise of a gypsy woman. She takes his hand and tells his fortune, then she dances, and, ever increasingly, subjects him to her will. She talks of his romance and promises him great happiness. Captivated by her words, he begs her to lead him to his fiancée.

III. "At the Mill. Guided by the Fairy, the young man arrives at the mill, where he finds his fiancée among her friends playing games. The Fairy disappears. They all dance; then the girl goes with her friends to put on her wedding veil. The young man is left alone.

"The Fairy appears, wearing a wedding veil. The young man takes her for his bride. He goes towards her, enraptured, and addresses her in terms of warmest passion. Suddenly the Fairy throws off her veil. Dumbfounded, the young man realizes his mistake. He tries to free himself, but in vain; he is defenceless before the supernatural power of the Fairy. His resistance overcome, she holds him in her power. Now she will bear him away to a land beyond time and place, where she will again kiss him. . . .

IV. "The Lullaby of the Land beyond Time and Place. The Fairy's attendant sprites group themselves in slow movements of great tranquility before a wide decor representing the infinite space of the heavens. The Fairy and the young man appear on a ridge. She kisses him to the sound of her lullaby."

Interlude and Dance from *La Vida breve* . . . MANUEL DE FALLA

La Vida breve won first prize in a competition for a national opera sponsored by the Academy of Fine Arts at Madrid in 1904. The plot of the opera is a simple one. Jaime Pahissa, in *Manuel de Falla*, 1954, states the case succinctly: "Salud, a young girl of Granada, is deserted by Paco, who had sworn eternal love to her. Paco is going to marry his new sweetheart, Carmela, but in the middle of the wedding feast Salud enters, reproaches Paco and falls dead at his feet."

The Interlude and Dance are taken from the second act of the opera. The Interlude separates the two scenes of the act; the Dance provides a festive opening for the second scene with the wedding feast of Carmela and Paco.

Suite for Orchestra, No. 1, Op. 3 BÉLA BARTÓK

In his *The Life and Music of Béla Bartók*, Halsey Stevens writes as follows:

"The First Suite, opus 3, is the first of Bartók's orchestral works available in score. In spite of the fact that it is dated 1905, the musico-ethnological work which had already begun to occupy him has left no imprint upon it; it is, on the other hand, conditioned throughout by German and neo-Hungarian influences. The themes themselves are such as Liszt might have considered autochthonously Hungarian. It is rather curious to find present-day Hungarian writers so considering them, and crediting their character to the simultaneous welling of Bartók's interest in the music of the Hungarian peasant. Certainly the desire was present in the Bartók of 1905 to arrive at an authentically Hungarian style in his original music, but it was several years before perceptible traces of such a style began to appear. There are few enough in the First Quartet of 1908; to find them in the First Suite is to mistake the intention for the deed.

"Nevertheless the Suite is not without its significance. It shows the composer already well equipped technically to cope with composition in the large forms, provided with an adequate knowledge of the orchestral instruments in combination, and with some idea of structural relationship between separate movements, a problem that was increasingly to occupy his intention for most of his life. The . . . movements of the Suite are joined by a primitive sort of thematic inter-reference, not in the Franckian manner but somewhat less obviously and, it must be admitted, less efficiently. The principal thematic resemblance is a characteristic dip of a fourth, which returns to its original note and is followed by an ascending third. It is this motive which begins the work and forms a part of numerous themes which follow, in particular those of the Presto.

"The forms of the Suite are lucid, depending largely upon repetition and development, with some variational procedures, chiefly ornamental, in the fourth movement. The Adagio is rather loosely organized, with a recurrent rubato theme which serves as point of reference. The Scherzo is a very fast waltz-like movement not too far in mood from the second of the Two Portraits; in the finale various materials from preceding movements are cited and combined.

"The orchestration of the First Suite is hybrid. Much of it is rather thick, with many doublings; other parts are conceived in soloistic terms. The contrast in this regard between the two themes of the first movement is especially pronounced; the first theme is presented in strings, horns, clarinets, and bassoons, while the second is given to a solo oboe with very slight support. But the most striking thing about the scoring is the division of the strings, testifying to the lesson Bartók had learned from Strauss: in one long section of the Adagio there are as many as nineteen different string parts, the double-basses 'divisi a tre,' the other strings 'a quattro.'"

1958 — UNIVERSITY MUSICAL SOCIETY CONCERTS — 1959

Eightieth Annual Choral Union Series

Boston Symphony Orchestra Saturday, October 18
CHARLES MUNCH, *Conductor*

PROGRAM

Symphony No. 35, "Haffner" MOZART
Symphony No. 5 HONEGGER
Symphony No. 6, "Pastoral" BEETHOVEN

Gina Bachauer, Pianist Monday, October 27

PROGRAM

Sonata in A major, Op. 2, No. 2 BEETHOVEN
Sonata in F minor, Op. 5 BRAHMS
Three Preludes DEBUSSY
Fantasy in F minor CHOPIN
Three Etudes from Op. 25 CHOPIN

National Orchestra of Mexico Tuesday, November 11
LUIS HERRERA DE LA FUENTE, *Conductor*

Jerome Hines, Bass Monday, November 24

Nathan Milstein, Violinist Monday, January 5

Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra Thursday, February 26
WILLIAM STEINBERG, *Conductor*

National Symphony Orchestra Wednesday, March 4
HOWARD MITCHELL, *Conductor*

Cesare Valletti, Tenor Wednesday, March 11

Andre Tchaikowsky, Pianist Monday, March 23

Single Concerts: \$3.50—\$3.00—\$2.50—\$2.00—\$1.50

Thirteenth Annual Extra Concert Series

Isaac Stern, Violinist Wednesday, November 5

PROGRAM

Sonata No. 2 in A major, Op. 12 BEETHOVEN
Concerto in G minor, Op. 26, No. 1 BRUCH
Sonata No. 2 in A major, Op. 100 BRAHMS
Siciliano and Rigaudon KREISLER
Chant du Roxane SZYMANOWSKI
Scherzo tarantelle WIENIAWSKI

Boston Pops Tour Orchestra Tuesday, January 13
ARTHUR FIEDLER, *Conductor*

Renata Tebaldi, Soprano Tuesday, February 10

Robert Shaw Chorale and Orchestra . . (2:30) Sunday, March 15
ROBERT SHAW, *Conductor*

Single Concerts: \$3.50—\$3.00—\$2.50—\$2.00—\$1.50

Annual Christmas Concerts

MESSIAH (HANDEL) December 6 and 7, 1958
Tickets: 75c and 50c (either concert). On sale beginning October 15.

Nineteenth Annual Chamber Music Festival

SOCIETA CORELLI February 13, 14, 15, 1959
Three Concerts in Rackham Auditorium

Series Tickets: \$4.00 and \$3.00. On sale beginning October 15.

For tickets or information, address: UNIVERSITY MUSICAL SOCIETY,
Burton Memorial Tower.