

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
conducted by SIR ADRIAN BOULT

ELGAR Enigma Variations Op.36 : W.N. & Nimrod
BEETHOVEN Symphony No.3 in E flat Op.55 "Eroica"

Associated-Rediffusion Television

Recorded on 11 February 1964 at A-R Studio 5, Wembley

In February 1964 the London Symphony Orchestra spent a day at Associated-Rediffusion's Studio 5 in Wembley recording a fifty-five minute programme that was never broadcast. Somehow it survived A-R's demise in 1968 and turned up amongst a quantity of obsolete video tapes sent for transfer to a more modern format in 1992. By then it had lost its paperwork and, when George Douglass tried to establish its provenance, he was advised to forget about it. Instead he retained a copy, rediscovered it years later when moving house, and presented it to the orchestra's Archivist.

After an initial disappointment - two variations from "Enigma" had barely begun when the orchestra disappeared from the screen, to be replaced by stock shots of the Malverns - once the "Eroica" got under way Sir Adrian Boult was seen presiding over an orchestra full of famous LSO names, from Neville Marriner in the front row to Stuart Knussen in the back, with Roger Lord, Gervase de Peyer and Barry Tuckwell in between. Stock shots of cliffs and mountains returned briefly during the second and fourth movements - probably the orchestra had been paid for a maximum of forty-five minutes video - but the audio was evidently a single take, with some audible inter-movement rustling. When built in 1960, Studio 5 was the largest television studio in Europe and its width allowed a spacious layout, the sixty strings arranged with divided violins as Boult preferred. The front row included two desks of each violin section, separated by cellos and violas. Wind and brass were set on risers with the double basses in a straight line at the back, beside the timpani. Roving cameras were able to pan across the strings and close in on the wind from either side and Boult was filmed from various angles, with a camera (concealed behind a hatch in the rear screen) devoted to providing occasional close-ups of his baton technique.

So much for what?, when? and where? Why? remains a mystery. The recording was booked at short notice - it was a hand-written addition to the LSO's printed monthly engagement list - perhaps when it was found that the LPO (which Boult conducted in four concerts that month) was not free on a date when the studio was available. A note "may also include Trauermusik (Hindemith)" prompts regret that that was not given priority over "Enigma", but also speculation that - together with "Nimrod" and a Funeral March - such a solemn programme could hardly have been designed to win over an audience from the BBC's "International Concert Hall" presentations. With no provision for commercial breaks, might it have been a prepared-in-advance-obituary memorial? Winston Churchill would have been the obvious (only?) candidate for such treatment but, although his death in January 1965 massively disrupted TV schedules, Boult's "Eroica" was not transmitted then - nor at any other time. Virtually unknown for half a century, it can now be viewed as a significant addition to surviving video both of the conductor and of the Monteux-era LSO.

Philip Stuart, LSO Discographer

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First Violins	Violas	Flutes
Erich Gruenberg	Simon Streatfeild	Alexander Murray
Rodney Friend ?	Leslie Malowany ?	Lowry Sanders
Peter Gibbs ?	William Krasnik	
Barry Wilde ?	Alan Smyth	Oboes
Stanley Castle	Paul Katz	Roger Lord
Kenneth King ?	George Turnlund ?	Michael Winfield
Eric Bowie ?	Max Burwood ?	
Cyril Reuben	Patrick Vermont ?	Clarinets
Donald Stewart ?	Michael Mitchell ?	Gervase de Peyer
Max Weber	William Sumpton ?	Ronald Moore
David Whiston ?	Eric Cuthbertson ?	
Sydney Colter ?	Max Gilbert ?	Bassoons
Michael de Saulles ?		Roger Birnstingl
John Gould ?	Cellos	John Harper
Julius Ungerson ?	Jack Long	
Homi Kanga ?	Denis Vigay	Horns
	Hilary Robinson ?	Barry Tuckwell
Second Violins	Kenneth Law	James Quaife
Neville Marriner	Peter Willison ?	Robert Noble
Hans Geiger	Peter Muscant ?	
Neil Watson	Thomas Storer ?	Trumpets
Thomas Cook	Harry Dugarde ?	Howard Snell
Samuel Artis	Charles Ford ?	William Lang
Alex Lindsay ?	Norman Jones ?	
Jack Steadman		Timpani
William Meek ?	Double Basses	James Holland
Frederick Dyson ?	Stuart Knussen	
Geoffrey Parker-Smith ?	John Gray	
William Hulson ?	Arthur Griffiths	
Joseph de Roode ?	Gordon Neal ?	
Andrew McGee	Pashanko Dimitroff	
Peter Benson ?	Zvi Zohar ?	
	Robert Meyer ?	
	Frank Bailey ?	

Player lists in contemporary concert programmes were used to fill in gaps resulting from unidentified members of the string sections.

With profound gratitude to George Douglass, formerly of ITV's video transfer staff, who saved this programme from oblivion. Thanks too to Leslie Cates (former ITV videotape engineer), Libby Rice (LSO Archivist) and Philip Stuart, who facilitated its publication.