

Bela Bartok – Concerto for Orchestra – Miraculous Mandarin – Two Pictures

Written by bluesever

Sunday, 11 April 2010 11:21 - Last Updated Monday, 19 August 2013 22:14

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1. *Concerto for Orchestra, Sz. 116, BB 127: I. Introduzione. Andante non troppo*
2. *Concerto for Orchestra, Sz. 116, BB 127: II. Giuoco delle coppie. Allegretto scherzando*
3. *Concerto for Orchestra, Sz. 116, BB 127: III. Elegia. Andante, non troppo*
4. *Concerto for Orchestra, Sz. 116, BB 127: IV. Intermezzo interrotto. Allegretto*
5. *Concerto for Orchestra, Sz. 116, BB 127: V. Finale. Pesante - Presto*
6. *The Miraculous Mandarin, suite for orchestra, Sz. 73a, BB 82 (Op. 19)*
7. *Pictures (2) (Két kép), for orchestra, Sz. 46, BB 59 (Op. 10): I. In Full Flower. Poco Adagio*
8. *Pictures (2) (Két kép), for orchestra, Sz. 46, BB 59 (Op. 10): II. Village Dance. Allegro*

Philadelphia Orchestra

Eugene Ormandy – conductor

In the 1950s and 60s, CBS/Columbia (now Sony Classical) had the great fortune to have three of America's best orchestras and their conductors on its recording roster -- Leonard Bernstein and the New York Philharmonic, Eugene Ormandy and the Philadelphia Orchestra, and George Szell and the Cleveland Orchestra. Nearly a half-century later, sadly only Leonard Bernstein remains a name that even the non-classical music world knows well. But in the world of the compact disc, this is a wonderful thing, because while Leonard Bernstein analog stereo recordings sell at mid-price, classic performances by Ormandy and Szell are regulated to the budget line. Well, my friends there is justice because the vast majority of these "budget line" recordings are not only amazing, but some are still considered definitive more than 40 years later! This 1963 golden-age stereo recording of Bartok's "Concerto for Orchestra" by Ormandy and the Philadelphians is one of the best performances of the piece available, and I would rank it behind only the accounts by Reiner and Bernstein. Throw in terrific performances of "The Miraculous Mandarin" Suite (1962) and the "Two Pictures" (1963), and you've got a classic disc. --- Michael B. Richman, amazon.com

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