

Tchaikovsky - Aurora's Wedding (Stokowski) [1953]

Written by bluesever

Tuesday, 12 May 2015 15:51 -

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01 Rimsky-Korsakoff Russian Easter Overture 02 Mussorgsky Khovantchina - The Red Square in Moscow 03 Mussorgsky Khovantchina - The hall in the castle of Prince Khovansky 04 Mussorgsky Khovantchina - Vasily Blashemmy church 05 Tchaikovsky Aurora's Wedding - Introduction - Prologue finale 06 Tchaikovsky Aurora's Wedding – Polacca 07 Tchaikovsky Aurora's Wedding - Introduction - Adagio - Allegro vivo 08 Tchaikovsky Aurora's Wedding – Candide 09 Tchaikovsky Aurora's Wedding - Coulante straw flower 10 Tchaikovsky Aurora's Wedding - Bread crumb fairy - Singing canary – Violente 11 Tchaikovsky Aurora's Wedding - The lilac fairy 12 Tchaikovsky Aurora's Wedding – Scene 13 Tchaikovsky Aurora's Wedding - Dance of the duchesses - Dance of marionettes 14 Tchaikovsky Aurora's Wedding - Dance 15 Tchaikovsky Aurora's Wedding - Pas de quatre 16 Tchaikovsky Aurora's Wedding - Red riding hood and the wolf 17 Tchaikovsky Aurora's Wedding - Pas de quatre 18 Tchaikovsky Aurora's Wedding - Cinderella and Prince Fortune 19 Tchaikovsky Aurora's Wedding - The bluebird and Princess Florine 20 Tchaikovsky Aurora's Wedding – Coda 21 Tchaikovsky Aurora's Wedding – Coda 22 Tchaikovsky Aurora's Wedding - Adagio 1 - Adagio 2 23 Tchaikovsky Aurora's Wedding - Finale - Apotheosis Leopold Stokowski and His Symphony Orchestra

The Stokowski items are released with cooperation from the Leopold Stokowski Society of America; their president, Robert M. Stumpf, II, wrote notes, which include some intriguing details about the sessions. The orchestra was rather small (but does not sound small on these recordings) and consisted of some of the finest players in New York who would arrive in the studio for the sessions not knowing what was to be recorded—so rehearsals and recordings often were simultaneous. All of these Stokowski recordings were made in Manhattan Center from 1950-1954, just pre-stereo. Stokowski, as usual, was very involved with technical aspects of the recording; some vivid orchestral effects carry the Maestro's stamp. There are real treasures here, all in perfect transfers—minus the LP clicks and defects that plagued most disk issues. Russian Easter Overture features baritone Nicola Moscona singing the part written for a trombone. The three excerpts from Khovantchina display Stokowski at his most imaginative, replete with gongs. Identification of these is rather unusual; the section labeled "The Red Square in Moscow" is the Prelude to Act I, "The Hall in the Castle of Prince Khovansky" is better

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known as "The Dance of the Persian Slaves," and the third excerpt, "Vasily Blashemmy Church," is the Act 4 Entracte. Stokowski recorded music from Sleeping Beauty for RCA in 1947 (available on Cala 0522); this recording of music from the ballet arranged by Diaghilev and called Aurora's Wedding, was recorded in 1953. Glorious music-making throughout.
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