

understanding of Mahler. Horenstein was also mentored by Oskar Fried, another early Mahler champion. On November 10, 1922, at age 24, Horenstein made his conducting debut with the Vienna Symphony in a program that included Mahler's First Symphony, which was rarely heard at that time. Later in the 1920's he was apprenticed to Wilhelm Furtwängler, who in 1928 recommended him to become head conductor of the Düsseldorf Opera, the only regular conducting post he ever held. This position lasted until 1933 when the rise of Hitler forced him to leave for Paris. Among the composers that Horenstein knew and worked with were Stravinsky, Rachmaninoff, Berg, Schönberg, Strauss, Nielsen, Webern, Busoni, Eisler, Janacek, Shostakovich, Bartok and Weill. Starting in the 1930's, he guest-conducted major orchestras and in opera houses all over the world, making recordings for many labels. In 1940 he took U.S. citizenship but after WWII made his home in Lausanne, Switzerland. He was a masterful conductor for a broad range of music, not just that of Mahler and Bruckner, but he has nevertheless been particularly identified with the works of these composers because of his remarkably authoritative interpretations of their works. In an interview, he said of his time working with Furtwängler: "I learned from him the importance of searching for the meaning of the music rather than being concerned with just the music itself--to emphasize the metaphysical side of a work rather than its empirical one." Horenstein's success in that regard sums up exactly why his recordings are so treasured by music lovers today. As stated by his cousin Misha Horenstein, "That quote is so revealing. Horenstein was always 'searching' for the higher meaning."

Strauss Waltzes

Jascha Horenstein

Vienna State Opera Orchestra



Johann Strauss II, also known as Johann Strauss Jr. or the "Waltz King," was an Austrian composer born on October 25, 1825, in Vienna, Austria, and he passed away on June 3, 1899. He was the eldest son of Johann Strauss I, another renowned composer known for his dance music. Johann Strauss II rose to fame during the 19th century and became one of the most celebrated composers of Viennese waltzes and operettas.

Musical Legacy: Johann Strauss II's compositions are characterized by their elegance, charm, and sophistication. He is best known for his waltzes, which captured the spirit of Vienna during the height of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Famous Works: Some of his most famous compositions include "The Blue Danube," "Tales from the Vienna Woods," "Emperor Waltz," "Vienna Blood," "Wine, Women, and Song," "Roses from the South," and "Voices of Spring." These waltzes are still widely performed and beloved today.

Operettas: In addition to his waltzes, Johann Strauss II composed operettas, light-hearted musical theater works that were immensely popular in Vienna during the 19th century. His most famous operettas include "Die Fledermaus" (The Bat), "Der Zigeunerbaron" (The Gypsy Baron), and "Eine Nacht in Venedig" (A Night in Venice).

Career: Strauss's career was marked by numerous successes, and he became a favorite of Viennese society. He conducted his own orchestra and toured extensively, spreading the popularity of his music throughout Europe and beyond.

Recognition: Johann Strauss II's music has had a lasting impact on classical

music and popular culture. He is often credited with elevating the waltz to an art form and shaping the Viennese musical tradition. His compositions continue to be performed by orchestras worldwide and are frequently featured in films, advertisements, and cultural events.

Johann Strauss II's contributions to music, particularly his waltzes and operettas, have cemented his legacy as one of the most influential composers of the Romantic era and a cultural icon of Vienna.

Jascha Horenstein (1898-1973) is widely regarded today as one of the most important of 20th century maestros, but during his lifetime such recognition was slow in coming. Unusually, his sterling reputation is based primarily on recordings rather than the progress of his conducting career during his lifetime. He was born in Kiev, Ukraine, moving with his family to Königsberg when he was six and later to Vienna. He studied piano with his mother, violin with Adolf Busch, music theory with Joseph Marx, and composition with Franz Shreker. He spent three years as assistant to the prominent choral conductor Siegfried Ochs, founder of the Berlin Philharmonic Choir and collaborator of Nikisch and Mahler. Ochs said that Horenstein was "one of the few conductors who really understood something about vocal music." It was from Ochs that he learned the important technique of approaching the large-scale developing traits of a composition from a psychological perspective. During his student years, he was greatly influenced by the conducting of Arthur Nikisch, Bruno Walter, Felix Weingartner and Willem Mengelberg, who was Mahler's disciple and collaborator and was key to Horenstein's

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1 The Gypsy Baron Overture 7:28

2 Annen-Pola 3:07

3 Wine, Women And Song 8:38

4 Voices Of Spring 5:30

5 Vienna Blood 7:19

6 The Blue Danube 7:59

Recorded in Vienna, December, 1962 by RCA



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