

COMPACT
disc
DIGITAL AUDIO
PASC 418

JASCHA HORENSTEIN

The Rite of Spring - Symphony of Psalms

Pristine
XR

HoreNSTEIN's view of this work adds to a feeling of greater astringency and earthiness [than] the [mono] sound picture conveys. That taken into account there is much to admire and enjoy in an account that is classical in outline. Notice in the Introduction that no attempt at all is made to smooth out the various woodwind lines. They are allowed to curl and infest each other like insidious bindweed and there's a seamless transition into the Spring Auguries where a splendid downforce is imparted to the punching rhythms. This contrasts well with the Spring Dances where a sense of forward propulsion enters and energy that has been pent-up now finds release. When the orchestra is going full out here the dynamic range of the recording has to lessen in order to cope and I did think the Dance of the Earth that concludes Part I could have done with a real virtuoso orchestra. There is some loss of detail here even though you can hear what HoreNSTEIN is trying to achieve in rounding things off before the weird introduction to Part II. This emerges with real distinction, a twentieth century classic if ever there was one that is most unsettling.

Tony Duggan, MusicWeb International (excerpt) 2000 - review of Vox mono CD reissue

Producer's Note

Jascha HoreNSTEIN's only recording of *The Rite of Spring* was made in stereo, alongside his *Firebird Suite* and other recordings made in and around April 1957 for Vox. Yet when Vox issued the original LP - and again when they reissued HoreNSTEIN's recording of *The Rite* fourteen years ago - they did so in mono. To most reviewers this seemed no great surprise, even though the *Firebird* was offered in stereo. The assumed explanation was this: recording industry was at a point of transition, and what passed muster one week in mono might be rejected the following week, as the new vogue for stereo quickly spread. Incredibly, fake stereo LPs of the *Rite* were later issued, yet this is no fake stereo recording. Something very unusual happened to Vox's stereo master tape of HoreNSTEIN's *Rite*, and I suppose it's unlikely we'll ever discover quite what. It appeared on a 1970s stereo LP on the rather suspect *Classica Records* label in the US (CLAS 108), under a false name: the Rome Symphony Orchestra, conducted by one Leonardo Scotti - one of a number of older Vox or Everest recordings the label issued in disguise. Only recently has the recording been correctly identified as the 1957 Vox by Jascha HoreNSTEIN - as his cousin, Misha HoreNSTEIN (and others) verified to me. I managed to source two copies of the *Classica Rite* LP to work from, together with a near-mint English pressing of the *Symphony of Psalms*, originally issued by Pathé but released in the US on Angel. The latter, despite being winner of the *Grand Prix du Disque* in 1954, was not well-recorded. However the LP was well-pressed, and XR remastering has made a superb job of rendering it not only listenable, perhaps for the first time, but also very enjoyable. The stereo *Rite* LP, meanwhile had had its sides reversed and suffered a thin tone with a distinct lack of bass. Both faults, and others, have been rectified for this release. **Andrew Rose**

FULL PROGRAMME NOTES CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM
SARL Pristine Audio, 144 Rue de l'Eglise, 24610 St. Méard de Gurçon, France

Pristine
XR
PASC 418
STEREO

HoreNSTEIN

conducts

Stravinsky

The Rite of Spring

SWR Symphony Orchestra
of Baden-Baden And Freiburg
Stereo recording - first digital issue

Symphony of Psalms

Choeur et Orchestre National
de la Radiodiffusion Française

Pathé and Vox studio recordings, 1953 & 1957



