

LOUIS SPOHR DISCOGRAPHY : ADDENDA (1982)

by Robert Jordan

The following Addenda (1982) contain only items which, for one reason or another, were not included in the Spohr Discography in Spohr Journal No.8 (Summer 1981). A number of interesting facts came to light during the compilation of the discography last year as well as during my continuing work on the subject this year. I would like to discuss a few of them here.

The most significant thing, of course, is the tremendous increase in the number of recordings of Spohr's music which have appeared since Keith Warsop's pioneering "Spohr on Record : a survey," Spohr Journal No.1 (1970). The 1970 discography listed 38 records and by 1981 the number had increased to 94, which was more than a 100% increase in eleven years. With 31 additions in this 1982 Addenda, the total has risen to 125.

This means that a sizeable sampling of Spohr's music has been made commercially available on disc during the course of this century. The breadth of this sampling has been rather unfortunately limited by the tendency of record companies to re-record the staple favourites already well represented for many years, such as the Violin Concerto No.8, the Nonet, Octet and Sonatas-concertante, Opp.113-115. A multiplicity of recordings of these works (to the neglect of many others of equal significance) has appeared over the years.

However, major works by Spohr which have received their first recordings since the 1970 discography include the Clarinet Concertos Nos.2 and 4, the Septet, Op.147, the Symphony No.3 (first stereo recording) and, very recently, 'The Last Judgement' (1825-26). Surely this shows that there is at least a certain interest in Spohr's music by various of the more enterprising record companies. We, as members of the Spohr Society, undoubtedly feel that more hitherto-unrecorded works by Spohr should begin to appear in record catalogues. Perhaps it might not be amiss for members to send a letter or two to certain of the more likely record companies, mentioning as-yet-unrecorded works they might consider for future release?

Extensive revision and completion of many entries is needed for the 1981 discography. The 1982 Addenda, as can be easily seen, is incomplete in a few aspects: information about certain recordings was simply not available by press time. I do hope to compile a thoroughly completed and revised edition of the discography integrating the 1981 and 1982 listings into a single listing, complete with corrections, performer information, etc., etc. Much searching, correspondence and checking needs to be done, so it may be some time before it is complete. Spohr Society members who may be interested in receiving a copy of the Thoroughly Revised Discography, please write to me at 2868 West 3rd Avenue, Vancouver, B.C., Canada V6K 1M7 and I will send you a copy when it is ready.

I am also interested in compiling a list of non-commercial, private tapes and records of performances of Spohr's music which members, or anyone else, may know about. If any members have or know of such, please let me know at the above address. If there is sufficient response, perhaps a list could be published in a future newsletter. At least it would provide some idea of what music is existent in such a format -- and which may be available for rehearing?

A word about the format of the discography: the format I have used consists of one alphabetical listing in the U.S. Library of Congress style of uniform titles with cross-references where I felt they might be helpful and with adjustments of style where I felt L. of C. is just a bit too pedantic. This departs somewhat from the usual British format of dividing works into catagories (as in the Gramophone Classical Catalogue) and listing them alphabetically in each catagory. But it is the format with which I feel most comfortable, having used it so much during my years as the reference librarian at the Music Library of the University of British Columbia.

I hope the discography is useful to at least some people and I give much thanks to various people who have assisted me with it, especially member Bernard Borne, who has provided me with information for several of the more esoteric entries.

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Der Berggeist, Op.73. Overture.

Carewe, John/Frankfurt RSO
Stadtsparkasse, Kassel (Private Release) 66.28063-02-2

Concertante, violin, harp & orchestra, no.1, G major (1806).
3rd movement, "Rondo-Allegretto."

Schneeberger, Hansheinz, violin
Holliger, Ursula, harp
Graf, Peter-Lukas/English CO
Claves 0 300

Concerto, violin, no.7, op.38, E minor.

Edinger, Christiane, violin
Carewe, John/Frankfurt RSO
Stadtsparkasse, Kassel 66.28063-01-2 (Private Release)

Double-quartet, strings, no.1, op.65, D minor.

Eder Quartet; Kreuzberger String Quartet
Telefunken 6.42 642 AW

Duet, violins, op.67, no.1, A minor

Musical Heritage Society MHS 4376F (no further information yet)

Duet, violins, op.67, no.2, D major. 3rd movement "Rondo-Vivace."
Arr. violin & piano.

Menuhin, Yehudi, violin
Persinger, L(ouis), piano
HMV DB 1301 (12" 78 rpm)
Victor 7317 (12" 78 rpm)
Masters of the Bow MB 1013

NB. On the Masters of the Bow LP reissue of this, it is erroneously listed as being the 3rd movement "Rondo" of the Duet, op.39, no.1.

Duet, violins, op.67, no.3, G minor. 1st movement "Allegro."

Vito, G. de and Menuhin, Yehudi, violins
HMV ALP 1462

Fantasie, harp, op.35, C minor

Zabaleta, Nicanor, harp
Esoteric Records ES-1501

Fantasy and variations on a theme of Danzi, clarinet & string quartet,
Op.81, B-flat major. Arr. clarinet & piano.

Bradbury, Colin, clarinet
Davies, Oliver, piano
ACM 2011

Faust, Op.60. Overture.

Feldbrill, Victor/CBC Festival Orchestra
CBC SM 329

Rozhdestvensky, Gennadi/Moscow Conservatoire Orchestra
Melodiya C 10-12547-50

German Songs, Op.25. "Zigeunerlied."

Prey, Hermann, baritone
Krist, Michael, piano
Philips 6747 058

German Songs, Op.94. No.4 "Ungeduld."
No.5 "Schwermut."

Prey, Hermann, baritone
Krist, Michael, piano
Philips 6747 058

German Songs, Op.103.

Chornodolska, Anna, soprano
Campbell, James, clarinet
York, John, piano
Radio Canada International RCI-483

Jessonda, Op.63. Overture.

Carewe, John/Frankfurt RSO
Stadtsparkasse, Kassel 66.28063-01-1 (Private Release)
Solomon, Izler/Frankfurt RSO
CBS 79337 (3 discs) "Musik aus Hessen"

The Last Judgement (1825-26).

JU 85191 (record from Germany; no further information yet)

Quintet, piano & wind, op.52, C minor.

Nash Ensemble
CRD 1099

Sawallisch, Wolfgang, piano
Munich Residenz Quartet
Claves D 8101

Septet, piano, winds & strings, op.147, A minor.

Nash Ensemble
CRD 1099

Sonata, violin & harp, C minor (1805). Arr. flute & harp.

Quant, Abbie de, flute
Witsenberg, Edward, harp
EMI-BOVEMA HOLLAND 5C 057-25 628