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PRESENTED BY
THE YEHUDI MENUHIN FOUNDATION

ALBERICO VITALINI
FANTASIA ROMANTICA

SERGIO CALLIGARIS
PIANO

VATICAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Conducted by the composer



SIDE 1 (26:00)

1. ALBERICO VITALINI: FANTASIA ROMANTICA (1949)
for Piano and Orchestra 12:49
 2. A. VITALINI: SCHERZO (1955) 4:19
 3. E. GRANADOS: SPANISH DANCE #5 (ANDALUCIA) 4:31
 4. M. DE FALLA: RITUAL FIRE DANCE (EL AMOR BRUJO) 3:54
- A Vatican Radio Recording Engineer: Ulderico Merluzzi

ALBERICO VITALINI (b. 1921), the noted Italian composer, has since 1950 been music director of the Vatican State Radio. He enjoys an outstanding reputation in Europe, and his compositions are programmed regularly in all leading music capitals. He has a large number of recordings, both as a composer and as conductor on the RCA Italian label. In 1958 he was awarded the coveted ONDAS International Prize in Barcelona, and in 1966 one of his film scores received a first award at the Venice Film Festival. The *Fantasia for Piano and Orchestra* (1949) is a youthful work, with melodies of intense romanticism, episodes of great brilliance and dazzling pianistic fireworks, others of spontaneous and refreshing charm, alternating with impressive orchestral tutti. The solo piano part is superbly written, using the most honest and direct pianistic effects with great musicianship and skill. An impressive cadenza precedes the brilliant and exciting coda. The overall impression is one of sincere and rich musical inspiration combined with overwhelming optimism and joy.

The *Scherzo* (1955) is an exquisite work, abounding with the greatest originality of ideas. The first section is in an attractive dance character, with the main theme introduced in fugato form, followed by bouncing rhythms that the composer uses again to advantage in the coda. The trio has a tender and nostalgic mood, with a ballad-like theme of disarming simplicity.

The *Ritual Fire Dance* by Manuel De Falla (1876-1946), with its incisive rhythms, diabolic trills and frenzied mood, contrasts sharply with the sophisticated melodiousness of the *Spanish Dance* (Andaluza) No. 5 by *Enrique Granados* (1867-1916), wherein the first and last sections boast a fascinatingly beautiful theme, backed by an elegantly enunciated rhythmic pattern, while the central section is poetic and intimate in mood.

ROBERT SCHUMANN (1810-1856) was one of the most fascinating musical personalities of the Romantic era. In *Soaring* (Aufschwung), Op. 12 No. 2 we hear him in a mood rich with passionate lyricism, strength and expressive intensity.

CLAUDE DEBUSSY (1862-1918), the great French impressionist and a marvellous painter of sounds, brings to his prelude *Fireworks* (Feu d'Artifice) a fantastic image of radiant sonorities, movement and fascinating shapes.

SERGEI RACHMANINOFF (1873-1943) was a late Romantic, and his music is tremendously expressive and rich in generous melodies, bold sonorities and subtle harmonization. His *Prelude*, Op. 3 No. 2 is sombre and solemn in mood, with an agitated episode in the middle, culminating in an apotheosis of the first theme, finally slowly fading away. The *Prelude* Op. 23 No. 5 is an exciting and march-like composition with a touching, melodious trio imbued with Romantic spirit.

SIDE 2 (27:09)

1. R. SCHUMANN: AUFSCHWUNG (Soaring), OP. 12, #2 4:03
2. C. DEBUSSY: FEU D'ARTIFICE (Fireworks) (Bk. II) 4:41
3. S. RACHMANINOFF: PRELUDE IN C SHARP MINOR, OP. 3, #2 4:50
4. S. RACHMANINOFF: PRELUDE IN G MINOR, ("Alla marcia"), OP. 23, #5 4:54
5. F. LISZT: HUNGARIAN RHAPSODY #6 IN D MAJOR 8:07

The *Hungarian Rhapsody* No. 6 by *Franz Liszt* (1811-1886) captures all the soul and vitality of the gypsies, with their contagious enthusiasm, heard in the first episode. This is followed by a melodic interlude, charged with sentiment, freedom of expression and even a touch of melancholy. The coda, with its famous theme, elegant and capricious at first, gradually grows faster and more sparkling, culminating in a frantic dance.



SERGIO CALLIGARIS' pianistic art has already been acclaimed in some of the most prestigious concert stages of Europe, such as the Brahmsaal of the Musikverein in Vienna, the Konzertsaal Bundesallee of West Berlin presented by the leading Konzert Direktion Hans Adler, the Società del Quartetto in Rome, the Instituto de Cultura Hispanica in Madrid, etc., besides the special recordings he did for the Radiodiffusion Television Française in Paris. His recitals in London and Paris were officially hosted by the Argentinian Embassies there. In 1968 he gave a recital for the Diplomatic Representation at the Holy See, at the Patrizzi Palace in Rome. Mr. Calligaris is an official recording artist of the Vatican State Radio. In the United States, besides his successful recitals, he held Master Classes for Pianists at the California State College at Los Angeles and The Cleveland Institute of Music. He also concertized extensively in Argentina, where he was born in 1941, of Italian descent. Mr. Calligaris holds the coveted Artist's Diploma from The Cleveland Institute of Music. He is now General Director of the Music and Arts Division of the Ital-Enterprise in Rome.

VIENNA . . . "a particularly fine quality of tone . . . a thoroughly refined technique and judicious use of pedals enhanced the fascination of his performance" (KURIER).

CLEVELAND . . . " . . . a significant talent . . . unusual powers of interpretation . . . a flexible tone that can thunder or whisper at the pianist's command . . ." (THE SUN).

BERLIN: . . . "a marvellous touch . . . a wealth of subtleties . . ." (DER TAGESSPIEGEL)
"a rich tone and strong technique..
fascinating performance of the
recital (NACHTDEPESCHE).

BUENOS AIRES: ". . . very beautiful and personal performances . . ." (LA PRENSA).

LOS ANGELES: . . . "A sensitive pianist, guided both by his deep knowledge of his instrument and an intellectualized emotional approach to music" (CLASSICS WEST MAGAZINE).

MILAN: . . . "Outstanding qualities . . . brilliant technique . . . a true talent . . ." (GIOIA).

MADRID . . . "Excellent conception of the Mozart style . . . a highly refined technique . . . beautiful delineation of the singing line . . ." (INFORMACIONES).

ROME . . . "Among the best piano virtuosi" (LO SPECCHIO)
"... a brilliant, impeccable pianist..." (IL MESSAGGERO)

OTHER RECORDS BY SERGIO CALLIGARIS ON ORION

