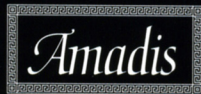




Strauss

Most
Famous Waltzes,
Polkas and
Marches Vol. 2

Bratislava Radio
Symphony Orchestra
Ondrej Lenárd



7061

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Johann Strauss, Jr. (1825-1899)
Eduard Strauss (1835-1916)
Josef Strauss (1827-1870)
Johann Strauss, Sr. (1804-1849)

Famous Waltzes, Polkas and Marches (Vol. 2)

The Strauss family dominated the world of light music in Vienna for three quarters of a century, from 1825, when Johann Strauss started his own band, breaking away from his partner Josef Lanner, to the end of the century. The three sons of Johann Strauss, the eldest another Johann, and the younger sons Josef and Eduard, all became musicians, all of them in spite of their father, who intended them for more respectable professions.

Johann Strauss the older, the son of a waiter turned tavern-keeper, was orphaned and apprenticed by his guardian, a tailor, to a respectable book-binder. Even while serving his apprenticeship, which he completed in 1822, Strauss earned money as a musician, playing under Michael Pamer, a violinist who was as popular in the dance-halls as he was disreputable. He and Lanner left Pamer's band to start their own enterprise, and it was from this that Strauss was to launch his own orchestra, after his marriage and the birth of his first son shortly afterwards.

The new business prospered, not only in Vienna, but abroad, with extended foreign tours. There was a constant demand for new music, for the composition of which Strauss developed a system of collaboration with the flautist Fahrbach. From the first violin part, which Strauss would play himself, a flute part was devised by Fahrbach. To this Strauss added a bass line, from which Fahrbach produced a trombone part, and so the process continued, with copyists playing a considerable part in it.

For his children Strauss had other hopes. The eldest, Johann, was to be a banker, Josef was to be a soldier and Eduard a diplomat. The younger Johann, with his mother's encouragement, studied the violin in secret, and was only able

to embark on an open course of study when his father left the family in 1842, to establish a home with his mistress. Two years later another Strauss orchestra was formed and the younger man began at once to make a name for himself, his apparent to his father's musical empire, to which he was at first a rival claimant.

The older Strauss was to die in 1849, leaving the field clear to his successor. Contracts made with the father were transferred to the son, as his ability became better known in Vienna, although it was not until 1863 that he inherited the title of Director of Music to the Imperial Court Balls, an unpaid honour his father had been granted in 1846. Johann Strauss the younger, now head of the family, was to continue until his death in 1899 as a dominant figure in the world of light music, compelling his younger brothers to join him with a second and a third orchestra. There was always work in Vienna, but in addition to that there were frequent foreign tours, for a number of years there were annual summer seasons at Pavlovsk, with visits to the major cities of Europe and even to America. In Boston in 1872, for the World Peace Jubilee, Johann Strauss conducted an orchestra of 2000 with some 20,000 singers, in an auditorium that could hold 50,000, a mercifully unrepeatable experience.

In later years Johann Strauss turned his attention to operetta. His brother Josef, weak in health and consequently an unlikely soldier, was trained as an architect and engineer, and invented a new machine for sweeping the streets of Vienna. In 1853 he conducted his compositions for the first time and three years later was persuaded by his elder brother to join the family business. Less prolific than Johann Strauss and in character melancholic rather than ebullient, a result, perhaps, of his poor health, he collapsed during a concert tour to Warsaw in 1870 and died shortly after his return to Vienna.

The youngest of the six children of the older Strauss by his legitimate wife - his mistress bore him seven more - was Eduard Strauss. As a young man he studied classical languages and was intended for a career in the consular service. Again it was the forceful persuasion of his eldest brother that brought him into the music business in 1862. He was to prove a lesser violinist but a better conductor than

either Johann or Josef, and after the latter's sudden death assumed even greater responsibilities. He survived until 1916, but retired in 1901 into private life. Six years later he was to destroy much of the music that had been the stock-in-trade of the Strauss orchestras, burning cart-loads of scores and orchestral parts.

Johann Strauss, Jr. & Sr.

Eduard & Josef Strauss

Most Famous Waltzes, Polkas and Marches Vol. 2

Bratislava Radio Symphony Orchestra
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Johann Strauss, Jr.

- 1 Tales from the Vienna Woods, Waltz, Op. 325(11:57)
- 2 Auf der Jagd, Polka schnell, Op. 373(2:23)
- 3 Du und Du, Waltz from "Die Fledermaus", Op. 367 ..(8:41)
- 4 Thunder and Lightning, Polka schnell, Op. 324(3:19)
- 5 Künstlerleben (Artist's Life), Waltz, Op. 316(8:35)
- 6 Treasure Waltz from "Gypsy Baron", Op. 418(3:43)
- 7 Wine, Women and Song, Waltz, Op. 333(6:02)

Eduard Strauss

- 8 Bahn frei (Fast Track), Polka, Op. 45(2:30)

Josef Strauss

- 9 Sphärenklänge, Waltz, Op. 235(8:48)

Johann Strauss, Jr.

- 10 Accelerations, Waltz, Op. 234(8:58)

Johann Strauss, Sr.

- 11 Radetzky March, Op. 228(3:08)

(Total: 68'04")

Recorded at the Concert Hall of Czecho-Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra in Bratislava
from 11th to 21st January 1988.

Producer: Günter Appenheimer

Music Notes: Keith Anderson



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