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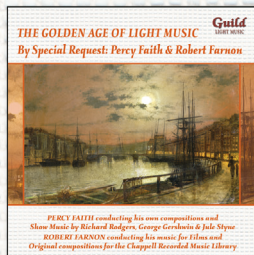
THE GOLDEN AGE OF LIGHT MUSIC

A Light Music Smörgåsbord

GLCD 5126



GLCD 5217



GLCD 5218



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GLCD 5220



GLCD 5222



ÅKE JELVING - HUGO ALFVÉN - HANS CHRISTIAN LUMBYE
KAI MORTENSEN - LAVARD FRIISHOLM - STIG WESTERBERG
BÉLA SANDERS - TEDDY PETERSEN - HANS WAHLGREN
BOSTON POPS - ØIVIN FJELSTAD - MANTOVANI - DAG WIRÉN

A LIGHT MUSIC SMÖRGÅSBORD

- | | | |
|---|--|------|
| 1 | Première (Premiär) (Kurt Larsson, arr. Anton Kotasek)
ÅKE JELVING AND HIS ORCHESTRA – HMV 7EGS 253 1962 | 3:29 |
| 2 | Laughing Violin (Kai Mortensen)
BÉLA SANDERS AND HIS ORCHESTRA – Telefunken U 45 683 1956 | 2:47 |
| 3 | Copenhagen March (Axel Frederiksen)
TEDDY PETERSEN AND HIS ORCHESTRA – Polydor 20395 1958 | 2:24 |
| 4 | Jealousy (Jalousie) (Jacob Gade)
BOSTON POPS ORCHESTRA Conducted by ARTHUR FIEDLER – HMV C 2861 1936 | 3:52 |
| 5 | Vagabond (Marknadsgyckel) (Bobbie Ericson)
HANS WAHLGREN AND HIS ORCHESTRA – HMV 7EGS 232 1962 | 2:16 |
| 6 | Marcia (from "Serenade For Strings", Op. 11) (Dag Wirén)
STOCKHOLM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Conducted by STIG WESTERBERG
– Barben SBLP 1005 1960 | 4:27 |
| 7 | Hesperus Valse (Hans Christian Lumbye)
TIVOLI CONCERT HALL ORCHESTRA Conducted by TIPPE LUMBYE – Tono LPL 33007 1955 | 5:17 |
| 8 | Conquistador Bolero (Bobbie Ericson)
HANS WAHLGREN AND HIS ORCHESTRA – HMV 7EGS 232 1962 | 2:45 |
| 9 | Krolls Balklange (Hans Christian Lumbye)
TIVOLI CONCERT HALL ORCHESTRA Conducted by TIPPE LUMBYE – Tono LPL 33007 1955 | 5:09 |

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|-----------|-------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------|
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| GLCD 5180 | Bright and Breezy | GLCD 5200 | A Glorious Century of Light Music |
| GLCD 5181 | The Lost Transcriptions – Vol. 2 | GLCD 5201 | Fiddles and Bows |
| GLCD 5182 | A Second A-Z of Light Music | GLCD 5202 | Cinema Classics |
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| GLCD 5184 | The Lost Transcriptions – Vol. 3 | GLCD 5204 | Salon, Light & Novelty Orchestras |
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| GLCD 5187 | Light and Easy | GLCD 5207 | Ça C'est Paris |
| GLCD 5188 | The Art of the Arranger – Vol. 1 | GLCD 5208 | The Lost Transcriptions – Vol. 4 |
| GLCD 5189 | Holidays for Strings | GLCD 5209 | My Dream is Yours |
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| GLCD 5197 | Melody Mixture | GLCD 5217 | By Special Request: Faith & Farnon |
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A GUILD LIGHT MUSIC RELEASE

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■ Guild GmbH, Bärenholzstrasse 8, 8537 Nussbaumen/TG, Switzerland Tel: +41 (0)52 742 85 00

■ Guild GmbH., PO Box 5092, Colchester, Essex CO1 1FN, Great Britain

■ e-mail: info@guildmusic.com World WideWeb-Site: <http://www.guildmusic.com>

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 GLCD 5177 The Composer Conducts – Vol. 1
 GLCD 5178 The Composer Conducts – Vol. 2

10 Outer Skerries (Utskärgård) (Bobbie Ericson) 2:50
 SWEDISH RADIO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Conducted by HANS WAHLGREN
 – Odeon 4E154 34398M 1962

11 Don Quixote (Einar Groth, arr. Anton Kotasek) 2:29
 ÅKE JELVING AND HIS ORCHESTRA – HMV 7EGS 252 1962

12 Masquerade Overture (Carl Nielsen) 4:04
 VIENNA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Conducted by ØIVIN FJELSTAD – Philips GBL 5520 1960

13 Tivoli Vauxhall Polka (Hans Christian Lumbye) 2:53
 TIVOLI CONCERT HALL ORCHESTRA Conducted by TIPPE LUMBYE – Tono LPL 33007 1955

14 The Happy Woodchopper (Den Glade Vedhuggaren) (Willard Ringstrand) 2:02
 ÅKE JELVING AND HIS ORCHESTRA – EMI 4E048 50432 1962

15 Globetrotter (Per Lundqvist, arr. Sven Olof Walldoff) 2:57
 ÅKE JELVING AND HIS ORCHESTRA – HMV 7EGS 253 1962

16 Entry Of The Boyards (Entry March Of The Boyars) (Johan Halvorsen) 4:16
 VIENNA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Conducted by ØIVIN FJELSTAD – Philips SBF 140 1959

17 Dancing On The Village Green (Trad. arr. Jesper) 5:40
 TIVOLI PROMENADE ORCHESTRA Conducted by ELO MAGNUSSEN – Decca F 40657 1954

18 Swedish Rhapsody (Hugo Alfvén) 2:48
 MANTOVANI AND HIS ORCHESTRA – Decca F 10168 1953

19 The Copenhagen Steam Railway Galop (Hans Christian Lumbye) 3:39
 COPENHAGEN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Conducted by LAVARD FRIISHOLM
 – HMV CSD 1536 1960

- 20 Pierette Dances (Pierette Dansar) (Gustaf Grafström) 3:14
 ÅKE JELVING AND HIS ORCHESTRA – HMV 7EGS 251 1962
- 21 Salute To August Bournonville (Hans Christian Lumbye) 1:45
 COPENHAGEN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Conducted by LAVARD FRIISHOLM
 – HMV CSD 1536 1960
- 22 Sunset (Solnedgång) (Sven Janthe, arr. Stig Rybrant) 3:13
 ÅKE JELVING AND HIS ORCHESTRA – HMV 7EGS 252 1962
- 23 Britta Polka (Hans Christian Lumbye) 2:06
 COPENHAGEN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Conducted by LAVARD FRIISHOLM
 – HMV CSD 1536 1960
- 24 Champagne Galop (Hans Christian Lumbye) 2:00
 COPENHAGEN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Conducted by LAVARD FRIISHOLM
 – HMV CSD 1536 1960

Stereo tracks 6, 10, 19, 21, 23 & 24; rest in mono

The copyright dates after the catalogue numbers state when the original recording was first released, according to printed catalogues and/or information on disc labels or sleeves. Compiled mainly from the collections of David Ades and Alan Bunting, who also wish to thank Ray Crick, Malcolm Powell and Ken Wilkins for their generous assistance in supplying some of these recordings. Special thanks to Swedish record collector and music journalist Kristjan Saag for valuable help with the booklet notes.

The Golden Age of Light Music – Compiled by dedicated enthusiasts to provide light music lovers with superior collections of recordings often difficult to find elsewhere, with the majority making their first appearance on CD. Remastered to the highest standards, each CD plays between 70 and 79 minutes with no duplication of tracks within the series.

He arranged for, and conducted, the Swedish Radio Light Music Orchestra for many years.

Gustaf Grafström (1886-1974), the composer of *Pierette Dances*, also worked as a painter and journalist. Some of his songs were recorded by the Swedish opera star Birgit Nilsson.

Sven Janthe (1911-2006) was one of Sweden's jazz pioneers, although this is not particularly obvious in his charming composition *Sunset*. As a pianist he worked with many orchestras in the 1930s, but later concentrated on composing and arranging: he was also a jazz critic.

Like the BBC and many other national broadcasters, Swedish Radio (Sveriges Radio) – until 1957 known as Radiotjänst (Radio Service) – had its own small ensembles and larger orchestras. The first official Swedish light orchestra was formed in 1936, first known as Radions Underhållningsorkester (literally the Radio Entertainment Orchestra) – the conductor was Sune Waldimir. Later it became more commonly known as Radioorkester. During the 1940s the orchestra was divided into different ensembles for light and classical music, but it was eventually merged into one orchestra during the 1960s as the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra. Sergiu Celibidache was its first musical director, and later this position was held by Esa-Pekka Salonen and Manfred Honeck. Today its artistic director is Daniel Harding.

The HMV recordings on this CD conducted by Åke Jelving and Hans Wahlgren were a joint project by the Swedish Creators' Rights Organisation, STIM, and Swedish HMV to document Swedish Light Music from the 20th century. A number of recordings were made between 1961 and 1967 and feature both well-known pieces and compositions previously unrecorded. Few have been reissued since their original release, which makes their inclusion in this collection all the more valuable.

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Annunzio Paolo Mantovani (1905-1980) conducts the most famous orchestra in this collection playing perhaps the piece of music which most people, if asked, would associate with Sweden. It was composed by Hugo Emil Alfvén (1872-1960) who is a legend in his native Sweden. His composition *Swedish Rhapsody* gained him fame around the world in the 1950s, thanks to the version by Percy Faith (1908-1976). It was a theme in his longer work *Midsummer Vigil* and Percy's version can be heard on GLCD5191. Alfvén's reaction to this unexpected public adulation was to compose another hit – *Swedish Polka (Roslagsvår* – the original Swedish title means *Springtime in Roslagen*) on GLCD5161. Alfvén was 84 when he wrote it, and shortly before he died the Swedish jazz pianist, arranger and conductor Bengt Hallberg (1932-2013) recalled that time in 1956. "Hugo was flown down to Germany for the occasion, and actually recorded some of the sessions. I conducted the other ones. Which one Philips used for the issued recording of *Swedish Polka* I don't know. It could have been one of mine – it could have been one of his." At 84 Alfvén may have been the oldest person ever to have written a hit record.

Lavard Friisholm (1912-1999) deserves special mention for conducting four of the Lumbye compositions on this CD. In Denmark he is particularly known as being the dynamic conductor of the Randers Chamber Orchestra, although his busy career found him working in both popular and serious music. Among many posts he held, at home and throughout Europe, was guest conductor of the Tivoli Concert Hall Orchestra in the distant footsteps of Lumbye.

The opening track, *Première* was composed in 1958 by Kurt Larsson (1909-1981). He began writing light music in the 1930s, and became popular in the 1950s with pieces sometimes folksy in style and often inspired by Gershwin.

Bobbie Ericson (1925-1999), the composer of *Vagabond*, *Outer Skerries* and *Conquistador Bolero*, was not a professional musician. Composing was simply an enjoyable hobby, although he was good enough to win the Swedish heats for the Eurovision Song Contest on two occasions. *Vagabond* was inspired by a busker, a one-man-orchestra walking down the street followed by dogs and children. His difficulty in synchronizing his instruments is evident in the composition!

Einar Groth (1903-1964), the composer of *Don Quixote*, launched his career playing the violin in Stockholm cinemas. He was a frequent visitor to the recording studios during the 1930s, and backed Swedish film diva Zarah Leander on several recordings. In 1936 he was appointed first violin of the original Swedish Radio Light Orchestra.

Per Lundqvist (1916-1999) who wrote *Globetrotter*, was a busy pianist, arranger and composer who could turn his hand to all kinds of light music – children's songs, light music, orchestral suites and piano concertos.

One of the strengths of the English Language is its willingness to absorb words from other cultures when a direct alternative does not already exist. Few English speakers realise how many of the words they use every day actually originated elsewhere. Among these is Smörgåsbord which the dictionary defines as "Swedish hors d'oeuvres (another import!) or buffet meal with a variety of dishes." Translated into musical terms, it is the perfect word to describe this very varied collection.

When thinking of Light Music there is a tendency to forget that the Scandinavian countries also have a fine tradition in this area of musical appreciation. The likes of Grieg and Sibelius are universally applauded: hopefully this collection will add some more names to this elite list.

Regular purchasers of Guild Light Music CDs will already have been introduced to the delights from Denmark and Sweden in the collection "Continental Flavour – Volume 2" (GLCD5190) which featured Teddy Petersen (sometimes called Pedersen) and Åke Jelving among others from the European mainland. This collection delves much more deeply into the treasure trove of Light Music from northern Europe which, so far, seems to have been unfairly neglected.

Perhaps 'neglect' is not the right adjective when looking at the career of Hans Christian Lumbye (1810-1874). This giant among Danish composers of the 19th century could almost be described as the 'Strauss of Copenhagen', such was the adulation his Tivoli concerts received. Like the Strauss family, he wrote many waltzes and polkas, although it is a galop that remains his most popular work. As Johann Strauss always had to give his audiences the *Blue Danube Waltz*, Lumbye usually ended his concerts with his *Champagne Galop*, so it is the natural choice to complete this tribute to Light Music from Scandinavia.

A glance at the tracklisting will quickly reveal that other orchestras have been happy to include works by Scandinavian composers in their repertoire. Similarly orchestras in Scandinavia have welcomed the opportunity to play pieces from other countries. Which is exactly as it should be because, after all, music is truly international.

To return to Lumbye: he decided that he would make his future career as a composer and conductor when he heard a visiting Austrian orchestra in his native Copenhagen in 1839. He formed his own orchestra, and soon his concerts became a regular part of the local music scene. When Copenhagen's famous Tivoli Gardens opened in 1843 Lumbye was the natural choice to lead the orchestra.

Concertgoers first heard the *Champagne Galop* at the Tivoli in 1845, which thereafter traditionally provided the finale for gala night concerts. A few years later – 1847 to be precise – the opening of the first railway inspired *The Copenhagen Steam Railway Galop*, and the noise of those early trains apparently sometimes intruded on the music. Lumbye certainly captured the magic of the steam engine in his work. His *Salute To August Bournonville*

was dedicated to the famous ballet master of the Royal Danish Ballet. Miss Britta Rydberg, a famous socialite in Copenhagen, was the inspiration for *Britta Polka* in 1864.

Comment has been made that the main theme of the *Steam Railway Galop* bears a striking resemblance to Fucik's famous *Entry Of The Gladiators*. However Lumbye's *Galop* was written in 1847, whereas Fucik was not born until 1872, so any accusation of plagiarism cannot be levelled at the famous Dane! The Lumbye name has carried on well into the 20th century. Three of his compositions on this CD are conducted by his grandson Tippe (Theodor) Lumbye (1879-1961).

At this point it is appropriate to mention perhaps the most famous piece of Danish light music. Originally called *Jalousie Tango Tzigane*, it was composed in 1925 by Jacob Thune Hansen Gade (1879-1963) who wrote it to accompany a silent film being screened when Gade was leader of the pit orchestra. It was recorded by the Orchestra da Ballo (1927), Fredric Fradkin and his Orchestra (1928) and Dajos Béla and Géza Komor in 1929. Its universal acclaim as *Jealousy* is largely due to the 1936 version on this CD by Arthur Fiedler conducting the Boston Pops Orchestra. Gade was so grateful that he went to the USA to thank Fiedler personally, and handed him the manuscript of his symphony, which Fiedler many years later described as one of the worst pieces of music he had ever seen. But the royalties from *Jealousy* allowed Gade to indulge himself in composing for the rest of his life. Nothing else he wrote ever came anywhere near *Jealousy* in terms of popularity, although we do have his *Glamour* and *Romanesque* Tangos on Guild GLCD5167 and 5218 respectively.

After *Jealousy*, perhaps another well-known Scandinavian composition in this collection is *The Laughing Violin*. The composer was Kai Mortensen (1908-1989) a Danish violinist, composer and conductor who gained a modest degree of recognition beyond his country's borders in the 1950s and 1960s due to his participation in the Eurovision Song Contests from 1957 until 1964. In 1963 when the contest was held in London he conducted the winning Danish entry *Dansevisé*. The Danish title of *The Laughing Violin* is *Den Drilartige Violin*, which translates more accurately into English as *The Teasing Violin*. But somehow *Laughing* sounds better. The version on this CD is by Béla Sanders and his Orchestra, although Herr Sanders is actually a German composer and conductor whose real name is Hans Schubert.

Danish music lovers will be familiar with the work of conductor and violinist Teddy Peterson (1892-1991). He was formally trained at Copenhagen's Music Conservatory, and played violin in many orchestras in addition to conducting his own orchestra. He was active in the film industry, and it is estimated that he recorded around 1,000 pieces of music during his long career. Previously Guild has featured him playing two well-known pieces of light music - *Teddy Bears' Picnic* and *The Whistler And His Dog* (both on GLCD5190). This time he conducts *Copenhagen March* by the Danish composer Axel Frederiksen (1894-1951).

Hans Wilhelm Wahlgren (1930-1974) was a Swedish arranger and conductor well-known in radio and recording circles. For seven years he led the Promenade Orchestra in Stockholm's parks, and as well as conducting his own orchestra he also fronted the Swedish Radio Light Orchestra and – as on this CD – sometimes its Symphony Orchestra. He was also an accomplished accordionist.

Stig Evald Börje Westerberg (1918-1999) was a Swedish conductor and pianist who was a major presence in Swedish music circles, notably radio, recordings and the concert hall. He did much to champion Swedish music, and was responsible for premiering over 80 works. During the earlier part of his career he worked closely with the Royal Swedish Opera – initially as répétiteur then as conductor. For nearly 30 years he conducted the Swedish Radio Symphony and its predecessors, and worked hard to raise its standards to an international level. Towards the end of his long career he conducted the Symphony Orchestra in his hometown Malmö. On this CD he conducts the *Marcia* from *Serenade For Strings* which the Swedish composer Dag Ivar Wirén wrote in 1937 after three years studying in Paris. It became famous in Britain when chosen by BBC Television for their arts programme "Monitor" which ran from 1958 to 1965. Wirén was influenced by French modernism and the music of Jean Sibelius and Carl Nielsen. He also achieved the 'fame' of having one of his tunes selected for the Eurovision Song Contest.

Another musician who will be well-known in his native Sweden is Åke Alexander Jelving (1908-1979). He played the violin in the Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra, and was also a composer and conductor. His frequent radio broadcasts, particularly during the 1950s and 1960s, made him a household name.

Øivin Fjeldstad (1903-1983) was a Norwegian violinist and conductor. Born in Norway's capital city, Oslo, he began his career playing the violin in 1921, then ten years later he started conducting after studying with Clemens Krauss in Berlin. When the Norwegian Radio Orchestra was founded after the Second World War he was appointed its conductor, and remained active in broadcasting for most of his long career. For a while he worked with Kirsten Flagstad at the Norwegian National Opera and Ballet, and later became chief conductor of the Oslo Philharmonic. His important contribution to Norway's growing cultural tradition was rewarded with the Royal Norwegian Order of St. Olav, which is bestowed for exceptional contribution to the nation's arts. On this CD he conducts *Entry Of The Boyards* which is the most enduring composition by Johan Halvorsen (1864-1935), an accomplished violinist and conductor whose work took him beyond Norway's borders to countries such as Scotland, Finland, Russia and Germany.

Dancing On The Village Green is a selection of Danish folk songs conducted by Elo Magnussen (1904-1968). The enthusiasm of the musicians for this music is certainly evident in what might be termed an 'atmospheric' recording!