

Libor Pešek: RLPO Discography

Libor Pešek's transformation of the fortunes of the RLPO during the 1990s was a major factor in stimulating Vera and I to extend our knowledge of Czech composers, especially Josef Suk, and indeed in motivating us to join the Dvořák Society. Apart from the actual concerts, we enjoyed the social events and musical activities arranged by Peter Herbert and Lorna Dobson, at which the conductor was often present.

There is surely no better evidence of Pešek's achievement than his extensive RLPO discography, and not least in opening the ears of British and indeed wider audiences through his championing of Suk's major symphonic works. Of course he made important recordings of other composers and not only with the RLPO, but with the Czech Philharmonic (some in linked releases with the RLPO) and Slovak Philharmonic and other orchestras, including later a series of Mahler Symphonies with the Czech National Symphony Orchestra.

NOTE: The following discography was compiled years ago and I think offers an accurate picture of Libor Pešek's RLPO recording achievement about the time he left as permanent conductor. It is however now dated. Some of the recordings are no longer available. Others are repackaged and reissued under different labels, such as the Dvořák collection on a Warner Classics box set.

Beethoven: <i>Violin Concerto in D</i> , Op. 61; Mendelssohn: <i>Violin Concerto in E min.</i> , Op. 64, Maria Bachman	Conifer/Classic FM 75605 57016 2
Brahms: <i>Violin Concerto in D</i> , Op. 77; Bruch: <i>Violin Concerto No. 1 in G min</i> , Op. 26, Raphael Oleg	Denon CO-79944
Brahms: <i>Violin Concerto in D</i> , Op. 77, with Violin Concertos by Bruch, Mendelssohn and Tchaikovsky. Various soloists and orchestras, Raphael Oleg	Denon CO7-17029-30
Britten: <i>Sinfonia da Requiem</i> , Op. 20; <i>Four Sea Interludes</i> and <i>Passacaglia</i> from <i>Peter Grimes</i> , Op. 33; <i>The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra</i> , Op. 34	Virgin 7 90834-2
Dvořák: <i>Symphony No. 3 in E flat</i> ; <i>Scherzo Capriccioso</i> ; <i>Carnival Overture</i>	Virgin VC7 90797-2
Dvořák: <i>Symphonies Nos. 7 and 8, in D min and G</i>	Virgin VC7 90756-1
Dvořák: <i>Symphony No. 9 in E min</i> (From the New World); <i>American Suite</i>	Virgin VC7 90723-1
Dvořák: <i>Symphonies Nos. 1–9</i> ; <i>The Wild Dove</i> ; <i>Scherzo Capriccioso</i> ; <i>Carnival Overture</i> ; <i>American Suite</i> ; <i>My Homeland</i> ; <i>Othello Overture</i> ; <i>Czech Suite</i> ; <i>In Nature's Realm</i> . Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, Libor Pešek	Virgin 7243 5
Mahler: <i>Symphony No. 9 in D</i> (with Mahler: <i>Symphony No 10 Adagio</i> . Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, Libor Pešek)	Virgin VCDs 7 91219-2
Novák: <i>In the Tatra Mountains</i> , Op. 36; <i>Eternal Longing</i> , Op. 33; <i>Slovak Suite</i> , Op. 32	Virgin 5 45251
Prokofiev: <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> , Op. 64 (Extracts)	Virgin VC 7 59278- 2
R. Strauss: <i>Ein Heldenleben</i> , Op. 40; <i>Don Juan</i> , Op. 20	Virgin VC 7 91171-2
Smetana: <i>Má Vlast</i>	Virgin 5 91100-2
Suk: <i>Asrael Symphony</i> , Op. 27	Virgin 7 91221-2
Suk: <i>Asrael Symphony</i> , Op. 27; <i>Ripening</i> , Op. 34; <i>Praga</i> , Op. 26	EMI 2 06873-2
Suk: <i>A Summer's Tale</i> , Op. 29	Virgin 5 45057-2
Suk: <i>Ripening</i> , Op. 34; <i>Praga</i> , Op. 26, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Choir	Virgin 7 59318-2
Suk: <i>Epilogue</i> , Op. 37; <i>Fairy Tale</i> , Op. 16, Luba Organosová, Ivan Kusjner, Peter Mikuláš, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Choir	Virgin 5 45245-2
<i>The Moldau</i> , Popular Orchestral Works from Bohemia: Dvořák: <i>Romance</i> , <i>Silent Woods</i> , <i>Hussite Overture</i> ; Smetana: <i>The Moldau</i> ; <i>Overture</i> and <i>Three Dances</i> from <i>The Bartered Bride</i> ; Fučík: <i>The Merry Blacksmiths</i> , <i>The Bear with a Sore Head</i> , <i>The Entry of the Gladiators</i> , Malcolm Stewart, Timothy Walden, Alan Pendlebury	Virgin VC 7 59285 2
A Celebration Gala Concert: Dvořák: <i>Symphony No. 7 in D min</i> ; R. Strauss: <i>Don Juan</i> ; Nedbal: <i>Valse Triste</i> ; Encores	RLPSCD 9705
Libor Pešek's French Collection: Bizet, arr. Hoffmann: <i>Carmen Suite No 1</i> ; Fauré: <i>Pavane</i> ; Francaix: <i>Flora's Clock</i> ; Ravel: <i>Boléro</i> ; Ibert: <i>Divertissement</i>	RLPOLive RLCD302