Walt Disney’s Fantasia OST 1940 (Remastered 1990)

1-1 Toccata E Fuga In Re Minore 1-2 Danza Della Fata Confetto 1-3 Danza Cinese 1-4 Danza Degli Zufoli 1-5 Danza Araba 1-6 Danza Russa 1-7 Valzer Dei Fiori 1-8 L'Apprendista Stregone 1-9 La Sagra Della Primavera 2-1 Sinfonia N.6 In Fa Maggiore PASTORALE Op. 68 I Allegro Ma Non Troppo 2-2 II Andante Molto Mosso 2-3 III Allegro, IV Allegro, V Allegretto 2-4 La Danza Delle Ore Dall'Opera LA GIOCONDA 2-5 Una Notte Sul Monte Calvo 2-6 Ave Maria Op. 52 N.6

Composed By - Amilcare Ponchielli (tracks: 2-4), Franz Schubert (tracks: 2-6), Igor Stravinsky (tracks: 1-9), Johann Sebastian Bach (tracks: 1-1 to 1-7), Ludwig van Beethoven (tracks: 2-1 to 2-3), Modest Mussorgsky (tracks: 2-5), Paul Dukas (tracks: 1-8)

Philadelphia Orchestra Leopold Stokowski – conductor

In 1937, Walt Disney was searching for a new starring role for Mickey Mouse, in part because Donald Duck had become so popular, and Mickey was becoming 'second banana'. In 1938, Walt Disney selected the story of 'The Sorcerer's Apprentice' as a new starring role for Mickey. Walt Disney met Leopold Stokowski in Chasen's Restaurant in Hollywood in 1938, and Stokowski offered to conduct the music for The Sorcerer's Apprentice free of charge, because of his interest in the project.

With this recording objective, Stokowski arrived in Los Angeles January, 1938 to record the Sorcerer's Apprentice with a hand-picked orchestra of 85 Hollywood session musicians. These recordings had some technical difficulties as to synchronization, but Stokowski approved them and they were used in the final film. However, Walt Disney had decided that The Sorcerer's Apprentice short film needed to be expanded to a full-length movie, in order to be financially viable. After discussing added musical selections with Stokowski, Disney secured the rights to Le Sacre du Printemps in April, 1938. In December, 1939, Stravinsky visited the Disney studios, and although in later years he was critical of Fantasia, Stravinsky at the time seemed

supportive. There was later further criticism of Stokowski and Disney's music choices, particularly in editing the music. The Beethoven Pastoral Symphony, for example was cut in half to 22 minutes.

Stokowski and Disney listened to dozens of different musical possibilities, including Rachmaninoff and Wagner 3, and in the end added the Bach-Stokowski Toccata and Fugue in d minor, music from Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker, Ponchielli's Dance of the Hours, and Mussorgsky's Night on Bare Mountain to join the already selected L'Apprentie sorcière, the Pastorale symphony, and Le Sacre du Printemps.

Stokowski also convinced Disney to record in Philadelphia with the Philadelphia Orchestra, and recording took place in the Academy of Music in April 3-7, 1939. It is beyond the scope of this web site to describe in any detail the resulting masterpiece film, but as well as Mickey as the Sorcerer's Apprentice, the many memorable scenes include the hippos as ballet dancers in Ponchielli's Dance of the Hours, and the Tyrannosaurus rex in the primeval world of Le Sacre du Printemps.

Fantasia was issued in 1941 and 1942, and was released again many times over the years, and continues even today to play in some theaters. It has been widely sold in DVD, in several restored versions. ---stokowski.org

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