Ferde Grofe - Grand Canyon & Mississippi Suites (1990)

1. Grand Canyon Suite I. Sunrise 5:09 2. Grand Canyon Suite II. Painted Desert 5:45 3. Grand Canyon Suite III. On The Trail 7:20 4. Grand Canyon Suite IV. Sunset 5:22 5. Grand Canyon Suite V. Cloudburst 8:56 6. Mississippi Suite I. Father of the Waters 3:02 7. Mississippi Suite II. Huckleberry Finn 2:13 8. Mississippi Suite III. Old Creole Days 2:25 9. Mississippi Suite IV. Mardi Gras 4:06 New York Philharmonic Leonard Bernstein, André Kostelanetz – conductors (CBS Masterworks - Great Performances 46)

Excellent, classic performances of these two works by American composer Ferde Grofe. There aren't many recordings of the Mississippi Suite available, and conductor Andre Kostelenatz conducts the New York Philharmonic this majestic and sometimes (in the final movement) light music. Likewise, the great Leonard Bernstein conducts the Philharmonic in the Grand Canyon Suite, which summons the majesty of the Grand Canyon, and includes a remarkable violin solo by John Corigliano. These are terrific performances, and available at a low price. Another solid entry is the CBS Records "Great Performances" collection. --- Michael Dyckman (West Orange, NJ USA)

While driving through the Painted Desert in Arizona on my way to NAU in Flagstaff I was listening to this CD and it just made the Painted Desert come alive. I could just picture each area of the Grand Canyon as the music came on. It was one of the most plesant drives I've taken in years. Also I was replacing a CD that had gotten stolen and I missed this mucic, so I ordered a replacement. I'm glad that I did. I danced to this mucis years ago at a ballet recital and the music had always remained with me. I really recommend playing this music as you pass through the Grand Canyon area but it's just as beautiful if you're sitting in your own living room or parlor listening to it. --- C. Bessire "librarian" (Alpine, Az.)

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