SYMPOSIUM RECORDS CD 1333

KARIN BRANZELL and MACK HARRELL

in a Recital of Lieder

KARIN BRANZELL was born in Stockholm in 1891, where she was for some time an organist. She studied first with Thekla Hafer in Stockholm, next with Ludwig Mantler and Louis Bachner in Berlin, then with Enrico Rosati in New York. Her début was at the Royal Opera, Stockholm in 1912 as Prinz Sarvilaka in d'Albert's *Izeyl*. In 1918 she moved to the Staatsoper, Berlin, her début being in *Die Walküre* as Fricka. The wide range of parts which she could sing made her a most useful member of the company. In 1919 she sang in the first performance of *Palestrina* and in 1920 she sang the part of Amme in the première of *Die Frau ohne Schatten* under the composer's direction. She left Germany in 1933, but returned for the Summer Festivals of Munich from 1935 to 1939. Her début in 1924 at the Metropolitan Opera as Fricka, was highly praised by Olin Downes. She reappeared every year until 1942, after that less often, until her retirement after an appearance as Erda in 1951. By then she had appeared over 300 times, not counting the company's touring engagements. The 18 works in her repertoire were predominantly Wagnerian, but she also sang Amneris, Dalila, Herodias (*Salome*, Strauss) and Die Königin (*Schwanda der Dudelsackpfeifer*, New York première, 1931). In 1926, 1934 and 1938 she was greatly acclaimed at the Teatro Colón Buenos Aires, and she sang Waltraute and Fricka at Bayreuth in 1930 and 1931. She sang at Covent Garden under Beecham in 1935, 1937 and 1938. She also appeared in Brussels, Chicago, Leningrad, Milan, Paris, Rio de Janeiro, San Francisco, Vienna and Zürich. As a recitalist she sang widely in Europe and North America. From 1946 to 1958 she taught first at the Julliard School of Music, then at the Adelphi School of Music. Her last years were spent at Altadena near Los Angeles, where she died in 1974.
The voice is described aptly in Grove as rich, sumptuous and voluminous.
The records were made in Europe and issued in the U.S.A. by Remington in 1950.

MACK HARRELL was born in Celeste, Texas in 1909. He made considerable progress in studying violin before moving to the Julliard School of Music to study singing. His made his début as a concert artist at New York's Town Hall in 1934, and became known as a recitalist. On a concert tour of Europe in 1937 he was everywhere acclaimed, particularly so in Belgium and The Netherlands. In 1938 he won the Metropolitan Opera 'Auditions of the Air' and made his début in opera as Biterolf in *Tannhäuser* at the Metropolitan Opera in 1939; Branzell sang the part of Magdalene. He remained, for all but two seasons, until 1954. It should be said that whilst Branzell sang a wide variety of major parts, Harrell seems to have been confined to relatively minor roles; Jochanaan, Kothner and Masetto, for example. He made guest appearances on many of America's principal stages. He sang in the first American performances of *The Rake's Progress* (Stravinsky), and *Christoph Colombus* and *David* (Milhaud). In Europe he sang in England, Germany and The Netherlands in 1949, and at the Edinburgh Festival of 1952, but his European

appearances were on the concert platform. From 1945 to 1956 he taught at the Juilliard School of Music. Harrell died at Dallas, Texas in 1960. The 'cellist Lynn Harrell is his son.
His repertoire was wide, extending from Bach Cantatas to *Wozzeck*; the voice is perfectly controlled and stunningly beautiful and even at all levels throughout its range.
These records were issued by Remington in 1953.

JOHN JACOB NILES was an authority on American folk music. Three of these songs are from north-western Tennessee, the other from eastern Kentucky.

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