

Issued: 24 August 2021
From: COASTAL CONCERTS
Contact: Don Matzkin donzol@mac.com
267-456-0002

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Coastal Concerts Volunteer Lani Spahr Receives Accolades for New Audio Restorations

During the second half of the previous decade Lani Spahr, professional oboist and renowned audio recording engineer, received numerous awards and worldwide acclaim for his expert remastering of a number of the works of Sir Edward Elgar, most notably Elgar's Symphony #1 and his Cello Concerto in E minor, issued on SOMM Recordings 2614, a four CD boxed set, in 2016.

Currently, Mr. Spahr is receiving fresh widespread accolades for his remastering of what became known as The Forgotten Recordings of George Szell and the Cleveland Orchestra, issued in a two disc boxed set earlier this year on SOMM Recordings 5011. Recorded originally in 1954/1955, all but one of the works - which include J.S. Bach's Orchestral Suite No.3, Smetana's The Moldau, Brahms' Academic Festival Overture and Variations on a Theme by Haydn, Stravinsky's 1919 version of *The Firebird* Suite and works by R. Strauss, Mozart, and Schumann - are presented on CD for the first time. This recent achievement of Mr. Spahr's was acknowledged by Gramophone magazine's Editor's Choice and BBC Magazine's Historical Choice.

Music Producer, Rob Cowan, in announcing the Gramophone award, wrote:

"...newly released in an expert Lani Spahr transfer by SOMM as part of a two-disc programme of Szell/Cleveland recordings... Two items could as well serve as benchmark examples of Szell's art, Smetana's Vlatava [The Moldau], where woods and meadows, the farmer's wedding, the round dance of the mermaids, and the moonlight scene are all beautifully handled, a perfect example of each orchestral desk listening to what the others are doing....Another highlight is Stravinsky's 1919 Firebird Suite, a veritable 'concerto for orchestra', where the Clevelanders excel in every department....Spahr himself produced the collection and undertook the audio restoration, and has additionally provided first-rate annotation."

—Rob Cowan, Gramophone (Editor's Choice)

Stephen Greenbank, of MusicWeb International wrote:

"All the works featured are making a first appearance on CD, with the exception of Brahms' Variations on a Theme by Haydn. These compelling aural documents have been expertly restored by Lani Spahr, who has also contributed the booklet notes, running to 19 pages. All in all, the entire project is an unmitigated success."

—*Stephen Greenbank, [MusicWeb International](#)*

Lani Spahr is a long time Coastal Concerts volunteer and producer/presenter of the organization's Performance Insights series, a half hour discussion of the nuance and little known facts immersed in the music of the day's concert. Five of the seven concerts of the upcoming 2021/2022 season are scheduled for discussion, which will begin one hour before the concert. For the concert schedule and other information visit CoCo's website, www.coastalconcerts.org

#####