

**A portrait of the French master cellist, Paul Tortelier:
first releases of chamber music and solo works from
Bach through to early modernism.**

A black and white photograph of Paul Tortelier, a French master cellist. He is wearing a dark, heavy overcoat, a light-colored shirt, a patterned tie, and a dark fedora hat. He is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. He is holding a dark bag or case under his left arm. The background shows an indoor setting, possibly a restaurant or cafe, with signs in German. One sign says "RESERVATION PLATZBUCHUNG RESTAURANT" and another says "NFT GESTATTET".

PAUL TORTELIER RIAS RECORDINGS

Lothar Broddack | Klaus Billing, piano




RIAS recordings: Berlin, 1949-1964
PREMIERE RELEASES

Paul Tortelier (1914-1990), one of the outstanding cellists of his generation, set benchmarks. All the recordings presented here are first releases; Tortelier never re-recorded Schumann's *Fantasiestücke* and the same is true of the sonata by Casella and two of his own *Trois p'tits tours*. In these chamber and solo works from Bach through to early modernism, Tortelier's expressive and elegant playing comes into its own.

Paul Tortelier was, alongside Pierre Fournier, the greatest French cellist of his time and one of the most sought-after internationally. He launched his career, which lasted well over 50 years, in the late 1930s. In 1948, a tour of Europe took him to Berlin: until his death in 1990 he was to return many times to the city to perform concerts and make radio recordings. His studio recordings for the RIAS are now released for the very first time. He is accompanied by the RIAS house pianists of the time, Klaus Billing and Lothar Broddack.

Paul Tortelier, who was principal cello of orchestras in Paris, Monte Carlo and Boston in the 1930s and early 1940s, met Pablo Casals in 1950 who engaged him at his newly founded festival in Prades (and Perpignan in 1951). The music of Johann Sebastian Bach remained a linchpin in Paul Tortelier's musical thinking for his entire life. This edition presents Tortelier's highly expressive reading of the solo cello suite in D major, whose musical flow is never interrupted by any capricious interpretational liberties. This attitude, combining the factual Bach playing of the pre-war era with the unbridled passion of his idol Casals, was highly unusual at the time.

This edition presents chamber music recordings from the archives of Deutschlandfunk Kultur: an impressive illustration of this great cellist's enormous range of repertoire at an early peak of his career. Three works included here are now available for the first time on CD in his interpretations: Robert Schumann's *Fantasiestücke*, Op. 73, Alfredo Casella's cello sonata in C major and Tortelier's own *Trois p'tits tours*, of which only the third piece, *Le Pitre*, has previously been available on disc.

This release is furnished with a "producer's comment"  by producer Ludger Böckenhoff on <https://www.audite.de/media/file/00/35/52/producer-s-comment-aud-21455.pdf>.



This release forms part of our series "Legendary Recordings" and bears the stamp "1st Master Release". The term stands for the exceptional quality of audite's archive releases which are all, without exception, produced using original tapes from the radio archives. Usually, these are the original analogue tapes with tape speeds of up to 76 cm/s, which are of astonishingly high quality, even by today's standards. In addition, the process of re-mastering – executed with professional expertise and sensitivity – reveals hitherto hidden details of the interpretations, creating a sonic image of superior quality. CD releases produced from private recordings of radio broadcasts or old 78rpm records cannot match this level of sound quality.

Marketing / Promotion

- Premiere releases
- Three works available for the first time in Tortelier's interpretation
- 1st Master Release: historic original tapes as the basis of the digital masters
- Producer's Comment
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