



The Death of Walter Legge

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The Death of Walter Legge

Letter (with Lord Donaldson and Sir Claus Moser), *Financial Times*, 27 March 1979, 27



SIR, – In the sad absence of the obituary page of *The Times*, may we record in your columns how much British music owes to the activity, over more than fifty years, of Walter Legge, whose obituary you printed on Saturday last (page 16).

In the 1930s, his marvellous ‘Society’ records, the Beethoven Sonata Society, the Haydn Quartet Society, the Sibelius Society, the Hugo Wolff Society and many others, set new standards of recording classical music. His founding of the Philharmonia Orchestra and Chorus, his prodigious knowledge of opera and singers, and his ability to recognise talent added very greatly to musical life in Britain.

THE DEATH OF WALTER LEGGE

He trod on a great many toes, but in part this was due to his unswerving pursuit of the first-rate, and undisguised contempt for anything that fell below it.

Donaldson

Isaiah Berlin

Claus Moser

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Posted in Isaiah Berlin Online and the Isaiah Berlin Virtual Library 19 April 2023