

Pianist Jerold Frederic Reunited with Unique Recordings

Jerold Frederic is 103 years old. His theologian father started taking Jerold to concerts early on in his life. Josef Hoffman was the first great pianist he heard in concert. When Jerold was eleven years old, still in short pants, he heard one of Vladimir de Pachmann's farewell concerts. Bravely making his way backstage after the concert, he found de Pachmann, who invited him to his Bismarck Hotel room for a piano lesson. When he arrived, he discovered the room full of people. "My student has arrived," de Pachmann declared, "and all of you must leave." The people obediently filed out. "Thank God you got here," he told Jerold, "I couldn't stand them." He then proceeded to regale Jerold with a private concert.

Jerold got his master's degree at the Chicago Musical College. He became a Steinway artist at some point in the twenties and concertized all over the world for many years. Around 1940 he was in residence at Ohio State University, and recorded a number of instantaneous discs. It was probably around 1980, when I was living in Columbus, Ohio, that I bought these records of Jerold's at a yard sale. The lady who was selling them said, "Will you keep these records together and take care of them?" I assured her that that was exactly the type of thing that I did. Upon listening to the records, I was amazed to hear an excellent classical pianist. Chopin, Liszt, Schubert, "Chant d'Amour" by Sigismond Stojowski, and an unfamiliar piece were on the seven 12-inch and two 10-inch discs. Sadly, two additional unplayable records had evidently been stuck together from heat or water damage and the surfaces separated in tiny fragments from the base material.

About two months ago I Googled Jerold's name out of curiosity, and via Steve Rowland's [artistowned.com](http://www.artistowned.com) web site was surprised to discover he was alive and well. I did a basic transfer of the records to compact disc without noise reduction and sent two copies to Mr. Rowland, who then forwarded one copy to Mr. Frederic. Steve set up a three-way phone call and I was able to talk with Mr. Frederic.

He had studied with Stojowski for three years. The unidentified piece was an original composition of Jerold's called "Balinese Fantasy." As a sixteen-year-old, Jerold heard Paderewski perform the same program three nights in a row in Chicago, Milwaukee, and one other nearby city. The experience was sufficient to shake Jerold to the core. He realized he would have to start practicing all over again from "ground zero" to approach Paderewski's ability to repeat the nuances and expression of his interpretations three nights in a row. I've been a bit shook up myself since

meeting Jerold Frederic on the phone, thanks to Steve Rowland. Now if only we could shake up some funding or a volunteer ARSC audio engineer to restore these audio-disc sides and hear those wonderful records in their glory.

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