



01/09-(5)

Title:

Josef Bohuslav Foerster
(1859-1951)
Complete Symphonies Vol. 2
Symphonies No. 3 + 4

Musicians:

Osnabrück Symphony Orchestra
Hermann Bäumer, cond..

1 CD

Order Number:

MDG 632 1492-2

UPC-Code:



Mature Masterpiece

Josef Bohuslav Foerster composed his masterpiece, his Symphony No. 4, during his middle years. It was certainly this Bohemian composer's most ambitious work, and on this most highly impressive recording by the Osnabrück Symphony Orchestra under Hermann Bäumer it is featured together with his Symphony No. 3.

Vital Messages

It was at the beginning of his Hamburg period that Foerster composed his third symphony, entitling it "Life". In this work a highly talented composer inspired by a whole varied range of musical influences is revealed. One has the impression that one is hearing reminiscences of Wagner or Dvorák or even of Bruckner and Mahler. Foerster's messages are subtle, but attentive listeners nevertheless will hear the great individuality and fine feeling with which he shaped his third symphony and will be captivated all the more by its Slavic delight in third intervals and of course by a scherzo of Bohemian stamp.

Paschal Reminiscences

Foerster began the composition of "Easter Night" on Good Friday 1904, but the significance of this work goes beyond that of religious meditation. He dedicated the first movement to the Easter Days experienced by him as an adult and in the second movement depicted these holidays with the eyes of a

child. Then a prayer and in conclusion a finale celebrating the Resurrected Savior...

Delightful Discovery

Our first recording featuring Foerster's symphonies in performances by the Osnabrück Symphony Orchestra was a lucky find. "Suspenseful, captivating – and rather unheard-of... Already the seventy-five minutes of sumptuous, brilliant, and richly colorful music make the mouth water" (*Westfälische Nachrichten*). "With a lot of energetic engagement, pleasantly musical... a fine, deep-breathing music in gentle harmonies and creamy colors – a delightful discovery!" (*Pizzicato*). "Foerster's first two symphonies... delivered with aplomb in a clear and resonant recording" (*BBC Magazine*). "Bäumer and his forces perform with full-blooded enthusiasm... A memorable disc in excellent sound" (classical.net).

Josef Bohuslav Foerster

Complete Symphonies Vol. 1
Symphonies Nr. 1 + 2
MDG 632 1491-2