

NAXOS

BRIAN: Symphonies Nos. 4 and 12

8.570308

A lifelong admirer of German musical culture, literature and thought, Brian wrote his *Fourth Symphony 'Das Siegeslied' (Psalm of Victory)* at a time when Germany's cultural heritage was being distorted by nationalism. Scored for double chorus, soprano and an orchestra of massive proportions, the work comprises two wild, martial movements enclosing a slow and contemplative one. With its peculiarly pitiless text glorifying 'Macht und Kraft' (might and power) and music of barbaric splendour and violent expressive contrast, the *Symphony* can be seen as Brian's apocalyptic vision of the direction in which Germany was heading. For the single-movement *Twelfth Symphony*, Brian still employs a large orchestra, but the language is pared down to essentials.

Havergal  
**BRIAN**  
(1876-1972)

**Symphony No. 4**  
**'Das Siegeslied' (Psalm of Victory) (1932-33)** **49:49**

- |             |   |              |
|-------------|---|--------------|
| <b>1-4</b>  | <b>I: Maestoso</b> <sup>†</sup>           | <b>16:08</b> |
| <b>5-7</b>  | <b>II: Lento</b> *                        | <b>11:22</b> |
| <b>8-14</b> | <b>III: Allegro (bewegt)</b> <sup>†</sup> | <b>22:19</b> |

**Symphony No. 12 (1957)** **11:08**

- |           |                             |             |
|-----------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| <b>15</b> | <b>Introduction</b>         | <b>1:26</b> |
| <b>16</b> | <b>Allegro maestoso</b>     | <b>2:07</b> |
| <b>17</b> | <b>A Tempo Marcia Lento</b> | <b>3:36</b> |
| <b>18</b> | <b>Adagio espressivo</b>    | <b>2:03</b> |
| <b>19</b> | <b>Allegro vivo</b>         | <b>1:56</b> |

**Jana Valášková, Soprano\*** • **Slovak Philharmonic Choir**<sup>†</sup>  
**Slovak National Opera Chorus**<sup>†</sup> • **Echo Youth Choir**<sup>†</sup>  
**Cantus Mixed Choir**<sup>†</sup> • **Czech Philharmonic Choir, Brno**<sup>†</sup>  
**Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra** • **Adrian Leaper**

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Playing Time  
**60:57**



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