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STEREO

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Havergal
BRIAN
 (1876-1972)

Playing
 Time
77:10

Symphonies Nos. 11 & 15

National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland
 Tony Rowe†, Adrian Leaper‡, conductors

- | | | |
|----------------|--|--------------|
| 1 - 5 | Concert Overture:
For Valour (1902-06)† | 13:29 |
| 6 - 14 | Comedy Overture:
Doctor Merryheart‡
(1911-12) | 16:01 |
| | Symphony No. 11 (1954)* | 24:30 |
| 15 | Adagio | 6:32 |
| 16 - 19 | Allegro giocoso | 14:00 |
| 20 - 22 | Maestoso e pesante –
Allegro marcia | 3:58 |
| 23 - 28 | Symphony No. 15 (1960)† | 22:49 |

Born in Staffordshire, Havergal Brian played the violin and cello and by the age of twelve was in demand as a church organist. His composition skills were largely self-taught, but he wrote no less than 33 symphonies, the first of which is now lost. The martial vigour of his early overture *For Valour* contrasts with the imaginative comedy of *Doctor Merryheart*, a send-up of Straussian programme music. Brian's capricious side is again displayed in two of his symphonies, especially the pompous *No. 15* – yet *No. 11*'s opening *Adagio* is among his most profoundly expressive utterances.

This compact disc was produced with kind support from The Havergal Brian Society and The Rex Foundation

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 E.C.



Cover Painting: *The Comet* (19th century French Cartoon) (Musée Carnavalet, Paris) (Bridgeman Art Library, London)

English Text /
 Deutscher Text /
 Texte en français

