

The second and most successful of the Czech composer Bohuslav Foerster's six operas, *Eva*, first staged in 1899, is a portrait of social conflict. It deals with the unhappy love of the socially respectable yet ultimately scandalous farmer's wife, Eva, who leaves her husband, lives with another man, is refused a divorce and drowns herself in the Danube. Foerster described his task as 'to stress the lyrical and dramatic moments, to capture the individual characters and plot in their psychological veracity'. Though Foerster was a nationalist, and for many years a worthy successor to Smetana, *Eva* is worlds apart from the tradition from which it derives. In *Eva*, country life is harsh, and economic disparities set insuperable obstacles to human feelings, leading inevitably to tragic decline.

Wexford Festival Opera is acclaimed world-wide for its courageous programming of neglected repertoire and its high production values.

Josef Bohuslav FOERSTER

(1859-1951)

Eva – Opera in Three Acts

Eva, a seamstress Iveta Jiříková, Soprano
 Mánek Kostyantyn Andreyev, Tenor
 Mešjanovka, his mother ... Denisa Hamarová, Mezzo-Soprano
 Samko, a furrier Igor Tarasov, Baritone
 Zuzka Elizabeth Batton, Mezzo-Soprano
 Rubač, a labourer Roland Davitt, Baritone

CD 1	74:49	CD 2	
1-9 Act I	40:46	1-7 Act III	39:01
10-17 Act II	33:57		

Wexford Festival Opera 2004 production

Directed by Paul Curran and Designed by Paul Edwards

Wexford Festival Opera Chorus (Chorus Master: Lubomír Mátl)

Cracow Philharmonic Orchestra • Jaroslav Kyzlink



Recorded at the Theatre Royal, Wexford, Ireland,
 on 24th, 27th and 30th October, 2004, using 24-bit technology
 Producer, Engineer and Editor: Andrew Lang (K&A Productions Ltd.)
 Cover photograph: Igor Tarasov, Elizabeth Batton and Iveta Jiříková in *Eva*
 (Photo: Derek Speirs, by kind permission)

Wexford Festival Opera
 is funded by



8.225308-09

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Playing Time
 114:50



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