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Symphony No. 1 in F major, Op. 17

(35:03)

1	Allegro moderato	14:57
2	Scherzo: Allegro assai	5:07
3	Adagio non troppo (Alla romanza)	5:27
4	Finale: Allegro con fuoco e vivace	9:23

Symphony No. 2 in E flat major, Op. 38 (36:09)

5	Allegro moderato	8:58
6	Adagio	7:13
7	Scherzo: Presto	8:38
8	Finale: Allegro energico	11:15

Zdeněk Fibich

Fibich occupies an ambiguous position in Czech music. His training was largely German and he was strongly influenced by Schumann, Weber and Wagner. He remains, nevertheless, among the most important Czech composers of the nineteenth century, after Smetana and Dvořák, contributing to Czech opera and preceding the latter in his Czech symphonic poems.

Symphonies Nos. 1 and 2

The first two of the three surviving symphonies of Fibich are well crafted works, the first completed in 1883 and the second ten years later. In both the composer shows his gift for melody, within movements of generally formal structure. The *Second Symphony* shows the influence of his relationship with the relatively young Anežka Schulzová, the librettist of his last operas and the physical inspiration of much of his later music.

Recorded at the Concert Hall of the Slovak Radio in Bratislava, from 16th to 19th October, 1995 (tracks [5] - [8]) and from 13th to 16th January, 1996 (tracks [1] - [4]).

Producer: Miloš Betko

Engineer: Hubert Geschwandtner

Editor: Ladislav Krajcovic

Music Notes: Keith Anderson



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