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STEREO

Hugo
ALFÉN

(1872-1960)

Orchestral Works Vol. 2

DDD

Playing
Time
78:46

Royal Scottish National Orchestra • Niklas Willén

- | | | |
|----------|---|--------------|
| 1 | Dalarapsodi, Op. 47
(Svensk rapsodi nr. 3)
(Dalecarlian Rhapsody –
Swedish Rhapsody No. 3) | 24:48 |
| 2 | En skärgårdssägen, Op. 20
(Legend of the Skerries) | 18:11 |
| | Symphony No. 3
in E major, Op. 23 | 35:11 |
| 3 | Allegro con brio | 7:58 |
| 4 | Andante | 10:34 |
| 5 | Presto | 7:31 |
| 6 | Allegro con brio | 9:10 |

The Composer

The music of Hugo Alfén has always been close to the hearts of the Swedish people. More than any other composer he is regarded as representing the spirit of the country, partly owing to his intimate knowledge of Swedish folk music. He was no narrow 'provincial', however, but a highly sophisticated musician who spent ten years travelling throughout Europe. Nor were his talents confined to music. He was an engaging writer and an accomplished water colourist who once contemplated a career as a painter.

The Music

Alfén's painterly instincts are reflected in a colourful and virtuosic flair for orchestration, which has been compared with that of Richard Strauss. Music-lovers who know him best as the popular, cheerful entertainer will discover in the works recorded here a more elegiac and dramatic side: sometimes melancholy, even turbulent, but characterized, too, by a bacchanalian exuberance.

Recorded in Henry Wood Hall, Glasgow, on 1st and 2nd February, 1996.
 Producer and Engineer: Tim Handley
 Music Notes: Sven Kruckenberg

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