

The Composer

The music of Hugo Alfvén 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 watercolourist who once contemplated a career as a painter.

The Music

Alfvén'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 characterised, too, by a bacchanalian exuberance.

Hugo
ALFVÉN
(1872–1960)

Orchestral Works, Vol. 1

1	Festspel, Op. 25 ('Festival Overture')	5:29
	Suite from Bergakungen ('The Mountain King')	16:00
2	Besvärjelse ('Invocation')	3:38
3	Trollflickans dans ('Dance of the Troll Maiden')	6:11
4	Sommarregn ('Summer Rain')	2:08
5	Vallflickans dans ('Dance of the Shepherd Girl')	4:03
6	Uppsalarapsodi, Op. 24 – Svensk rapsodi nr. 2 (‘Uppsala Rhapsody – Swedish Rhapsody No. 2’)	10:58
	Symphony No. 1 in F minor, Op. 7	34:47
7	Grave – Allegro con brio	13:17
8	Andante	8:18
9	Allegro molto scherzando	6:53
10	Allegro ma non troppo	9:18

Royal Scottish National Orchestra • Niklas Willén

Recorded: 21–22 May 1996 at the Henry Wood Hall, Glasgow, Scotland
 Producer and engineer: Tim Handley • Booklet notes: Sven Kruckenberg
 Cover painting: *The Princess and the Trolls* by John Bauer



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 Playing Time
 70:32


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ALFVÉN: Symphony No. 1 • The Mountain King

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