

Kôşcak Yamada was one of the great pioneers of 20th century Japanese music, who played a defining rôle in helping Western music take root in Japan. During his studies in Berlin with, among others, Max Bruch, Yamada composed the first-ever work for a western orchestra, the *Overture in D major*, and the first-ever symphony, '*Triumph and Peace*', by a Japanese composer. Dating from 1912 and written along traditional classical lines, both works show Yamada's indebtedness to Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Mendelssohn, Brahms and Dvořák. One year later, in a completely different vein, Yamada composed the two symphonic poems *The Dark Gate* and *Madara No Hana* which, while absorbing the influence of Richard Strauss, Debussy and Scriabin, were written freely with no restraints imposed by his teachers. It is possible to hear in these two works a prototype of Japanese composition which was eventually to lead to the music of Toru Takemitsu.

**Kôşcak  
YAMADA**  
(1886-1965)

- |          |   |              |
|----------|---|--------------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Overture in D major* (1912)</b>                    | <b>3:32</b>  |
|          | <b>Symphony in F major 'Triumph and Peace' (1912)</b> | <b>36:16</b> |
| <b>2</b> | <b>Moderato</b>                                       | <b>8:46</b>  |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Adagio non tanto e poco marciale</b>               | <b>11:22</b> |
| <b>4</b> | <b>Poco vivace</b>                                    | <b>5:48</b>  |
| <b>5</b> | <b>Adagio molto - Molto allegro e trionfante</b>      | <b>10:21</b> |
| <b>6</b> | <b>Symphonic Poem 'The Dark Gate' (1913)</b>          | <b>10:53</b> |
| <b>7</b> | <b>Symphonic Poem 'Madara No Hana' (1913)</b>         | <b>7:40</b>  |

**Ulster Orchestra • New Zealand Symphony Orchestra\***  
**Takuo Yuasa**

Track 1 - World Première Recording

Recorded at Wellington Town Hall, Wellington, New Zealand, 30th January 2002 (track 1);

Ulster Hall, Belfast, Northern Ireland, 7th-8th June 2001 (tracks 2-5);

16th-17th September 2000 (tracks 6 and 7)

Producer: Andrew Walton (K&A Productions Ltd.) • Engineer: Eleanor Thomason

Post-Production: Emma Stocker and Andrew Walton

Artistic Advisor & Booklet Notes: Morihide Katayama

Cover Painting: *Birds and Flowers*, a pair of six-panelled folding screens, colours and ink on paper (detail)  
by Yûhi, 18th Century (The Tokugawa Art Museum)

This recording has been recorded and edited at 24 bit resolution.



DDD

8.555350

Playing Time  
58:21



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