

Joachim Raff's symphonies present a synthesis of pure music and the programmatic elements of the neo-German school exemplified in the symphonic poems of Liszt. His eighth symphony from 1876, *Frühlingsklänge*, was followed in 1878 with his ninth, *Im Sommer*, forming a celebration of spring and summer that are part of a set that make up the four seasons. Both are written in an immediately attractive and approachable style, and scored for a relatively modest orchestra of Classical rather than Wagnerian dimensions.

Joachim
RAFF
(1822–1882)

Symphony No. 8 in A major, Op. 205 'Frühlingsklänge'
(‘Sounds of Spring’) (1876)

41:30

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|---|---|-------|
| ① | I. Frühlings Rückkehr (‘Spring’s Return’): Allegro | 12:12 |
| ② | II. In der Walpurgisnacht (‘During Walpurgis Night’): Allegro | 8:17 |
| ③ | III. Mit dem ersten Blumenstrauß (‘With the First Bunch of Flowers’): Larghetto | 8:56 |
| ④ | IV. Wanderlust: Vivace | 11:58 |

Symphony No. 9 in E minor, Op. 208 ‘Im Sommer’
(‘In Summer’) (1878)

36:08

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|---|--|-------|
| ⑤ | Part I – Ein heisser Tag (‘A Hot Day’): Allegro | 12:51 |
| ⑥ | Part II – Die Jagd der Elfen. Versammlung der Elfen; Oberon und Titania; die Jagd; Rückkehr der Elfen mit Oberon und Titania (‘The Hunt of the Elves. Gathering of the Elves; Oberon and Titania; the Hunt; Return of the Elves with Oberon and Titania’): Allegro | 9:30 |
| ⑦ | Part IIIa – Ekloge (‘Eclogue’): Larghetto | 7:03 |
| ⑧ | Part IIIb – Zum Erntekranz (‘To the Harvest Wreath’): Allegro | 6:37 |

Slovak State Philharmonic • Urs Schneider

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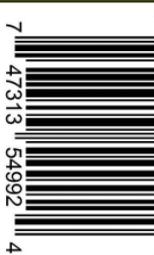
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