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8.555527

 Playing Time
 1:08:58

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Louis Spohr's innovative approach to symphonic writing began with the programmatic *Symphony No. 4* (8.555398) and was further broadened by *Symphony No. 7 in C major, Op. 121* which he subtitled 'The Earthly and Divine in Human Life'. Jettisoning traditional symphonic form, this work is in effect a daring symphonic poem in three movements with a small orchestra representing the 'divine' and the full orchestra the 'earthly'. The more traditional *Symphony No. 8 in G major, Op. 137* – enshrining both tragic lament and sweet serenade – enables us to compare Spohr the innovator with Spohr the formalist.

Louis SPOHR (1784–1859)

Symphony No. 7 in C major, Op. 121 'Irdisches und Göttliches im Menschenleben' (The Earthly and Divine in Human Life)

1	Kinderwelt (The World of Childhood)	12:00
	Adagio – Allegretto	
2	Zeit der Leidenschaften (The Age of Passion)	12:01
	Larghetto – Allegro moderato	
3	Endlicher Sieg des Göttlichen (Final Triumph of the Heavenly)	9:30
	Presto – Adagio	

Symphony No. 8 in G major, Op. 137

4	Adagio – Allegro	12:27
5	Poco Adagio	5:31
6	Scherzo: Allegretto	7:08
7	Finale: Allegro	9:56

Slovak State Philharmonic Orchestra Alfred Walter

Recorded at the House of Arts in Košice, 26–28 March, 1991 (Symphony No. 7)
 and 27–28 September, 1991 (Symphony No. 8)

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