



Composed in London, Spohr's *Second Symphony* was received with real enthusiasm at its première, the audience responding to the work's tasteful Haydn-esque flourishes, wide emotional palette and delightful writing for wind instruments. Written in 1850, a year after the re-imposition of authoritarian rule in Germany, *Symphony No. 9 'The Seasons'* is no mere programmatic work but a symbolic journey from the winter darkness of political oppression through the 'Garden of Eden' imagery of Spring, and the vibrant colours of Summer, ending with Autumn whose positive finale is a celebration of the composer's belief in the political rebirth of Germany.

Louis SPOHR

(1784–1859)

Symphonies Nos. 2 and 9

Symphony No. 2 in D minor, Op. 49 (1820) 30:40

- | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|-------|---|-----------------|------|
| 1 | Allegro | 11:56 | 3 | Scherzo: Presto | 5:54 |
| 2 | Larghetto | 5:45 | 4 | Finale: Vivace | 7:05 |

**Symphony No. 9 in B minor, Op. 143
'Die Jahreszeiten' (The Seasons) (1850) 26:44**

- | Part One | | Part Two | | | |
|----------|--|----------|----|--|------|
| 5 | Der Winter (Winter):
Allegro maestoso | 8:43 | 8 | Der Sommer (Summer)
Largo | 4:58 |
| 6 | Der Übergang zum Frühling
(The transition to Spring)
L'istesso tempo | 0:42 | 9 | Einleitung zum Herbst
(Prelude to Autumn)
Allegro vivace | 0:30 |
| 7 | Der Frühling (Spring)
Moderato | 5:37 | 10 | Der Herbst (Autumn)
L'istesso tempo | 6:14 |

Slovak State Philharmonic Orchestra

Alfred Walter

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