

A gifted musician, writer and watercolourist, Hugo Alfvén is regarded in his native Sweden as the most significant composer after Berwald. The *Fifth Symphony* occupied Alfvén throughout the 1940s and 1950s, and draws on themes from his ambitious 1923 ballet *The Mountain King*. The first movement has sometimes been performed on its own, but the symphony is relatively rarely heard as a whole. The *Andante religioso* is Alfvén's arrangement for harp, celesta and strings of an intermezzo from his *Revelation Cantata, Op. 31*. This disc completes the Naxos cycle of the complete Alfvén Symphonies.

Hugo
ALFVÉN
(1872-1960)

Symphony No. 5 in A minor, Op. 54 53:58

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|----------|---|--------------|
| 1 | Lento – Allegro non troppo | 19:45 |
| 2 | Andante | 8:29 |
| 3 | Lento – Allegro – Presto molto agitato | 7:39 |
| 4 | Finale: Allegro con brio | 18:05 |
| 5 | Andante religioso | 3:49 |

Norrköping Symphony Orchestra • Niklas Willén

Tracks 1-4 recorded at De Geer Hall, Norrköping, Sweden, from 15th to 17th June 2004
Producer: Lennart Dehn • Engineer: Torbjörn Samuelsson

Track 5 recorded at De Geer Hall, Norrköping, Sweden, from 23rd to 27th May, 2005
Producer, Engineer and Editor: Sean Lewis

Booklet notes: Richard Whitehouse

Cover image: *The Town* (oil on canvas) by August Johan Strindberg (1849-1912)
(Nationalmuseum, Stockholm, Sweden / www.bridgeman.co.uk)



8.557612

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Playing Time
57:47



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