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Playing Time
51:31

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Kôşçak Yamada was the first great composer to emerge from Japan after it had begun to accept western classical music. After studies with Max Bruch, Yamada was the first Japanese composer to write symphonies and operas. *Nagauta Symphony* is an epoch-making work that attempts the fusion of western music and *nagauta*, Japanese traditional vocal music performed with instruments including the three-stringed *shamisen*, *fues* (Japanese flutes) and percussion. In this work, Yamada takes a classic *nagauta* piece of 1857 to which he adds his original orchestral music. *Sinfonia 'Inno Meiji'* is effectively a symphonic poem which depicts Japan on the way to westernisation from the latter half of the 19th century through to the early 20th century. It combines a big orchestra with the *hichiriki*, an ancient Japanese double reed wind instrument, and other Asian instruments. The sumptuous *Maria Magdalena*, scored for a large orchestra and influenced by the symphonic poems of Richard Strauss, was first performed in Carnegie Hall in 1919.

Kôşçak YAMADA

(1886-1965)

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|---|--|-------|
| 1 | Nagauta Symphony 'Tsurukame' (1934)* | 17:23 |
| 2 | Sinfonia 'Inno Meiji' (1921)** | 18:28 |
| 3 | Choreographic Symphony 'Maria Magdalena' (1916-18) | 15:39 |

Touon Tetsuo Miyata, Touon Toshimitsu Muraji, Touon Taro Yamaguchi,
Touon Jun Ajimi, Touon Keizo Miyata (*Nagauta* vocalists)*
Touon Toru Ajimi, Touon Takehisa Takahashi, Touon Shiro Minoda,
Touon Yutaka Miyata, Touon Gojiro Sakamoto (*Shamisen*)*
Sataro Mochizuki, Satatoshiro Mochizuki, Tatsuyuki Mochizuki, Rœi Tosha,
Toru Fukuhara (*Hayashi*)* • Yumiko Mizoiri (*Hichiriki*)**
Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra • Takuo Yuasa

Produced with support from Japan Music-Drama Society • With special thanks to Takuo Ikeda
Recorded at Kodaira Citizens Cultural Hall, Tokyo, on 17th October, 2005
Producer and engineer: Tomoyoshi Ezaki • Assistant engineers: Takeshi Muramatsu and Masato Takemura
(Producer and engineers are from Octavia Records Inc.) • Mixed and mastered at EXTON Studio
(Yokohama, Japan) • Artistic adviser and booklet notes: Morihide Katayama
Cover painting: *Emperor Meiji enjoying a No performance* by Nobukazu Yosai (1872-1944)
(National Theatre of Japan)