



AMERICAN CLASSICS

In the first half of the twentieth century Virgil Thomson became one of the leading figures among progressive American composers. From his early years he established two very differing styles that were to characterize his compositions, with progressive scores written at the same time as his more populist music. The four works included on this disc are among his most immediately attractive scores, the *Symphony on a Hymn Tune*, dating from 1928, taking a somewhat humorous view of his favourite hymns. The *Second Symphony* came three years later, with a gap of forty years before the vivacious *Third Symphony*. Painting a picture of the early American settlers, *Pilgrims and Pioneers* is taken from his highly descriptive music for the film *Journey to America*.

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VIRGIL THOMSON

(1896–1989)

Symphony on a Hymn Tune (1928)
 Symphony No. 2 in C major (1931–41)
 Symphony No. 3 (1972)
 Pilgrims and Pioneers (1964)
 New Zealand Symphony Orchestra · James Sedares

Symphony No. 2 in C major (1931–41) 16:28

1 Allegro militaire 4:07
 2 Andante 5:58
 3 Allegro 6:23

Symphony No. 3 (1972) 16:27

4 Allegro moderato 3:52
 5 Tempo di Valzer 3:55
 6 Adagio sostenuto 4:40
 7 Allegretto 3:58

Pilgrims and Pioneers (1964) 9:40

Symphony on a Hymn Tune (1928) 21:40

9 Introduction and Allegro 8:08
 10 Andante cantabile 4:49
 11 Allegretto 3:09
 12 Alla breve 5:34

Recorded at Michael Fowler Centre, Wellington, New Zealand, from 23–25 November 1998.

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 Pioneers) · Southern Music Publishing Co. (Symphony on a Hymn Tune)
 Cover: *Autumn in New England - Cider Making*, after the painting
 by G.H. Durrie, published by Currier and Ives in 1866
 (Hand-colored lithograph 14 13/16 x 25 1/4 inches).
 Photograph of Virgil Thomson courtesy of G. Schirmer.
 American flag, folk artist, 1880s.

Playing
Time:
64:21

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