

A lifelong admirer of German musical culture, literature and thought, Brian wrote his *Fourth Symphony 'Das Siegeslied' (Psalm of Victory)* at a time when Germany's cultural heritage was being distorted by nationalism. Scored for double chorus, soprano and an orchestra of massive proportions, the work comprises two wild, martial movements enclosing a slow and contemplative one. With its peculiarly pitiless text glorifying 'Macht und Kraft' (might and power) and music of barbaric splendour and violent expressive contrast, the *Symphony* can be seen as Brian's apocalyptic vision of the direction in which Germany was heading. For the single-movement *Twelfth Symphony*, Brian still employs a large orchestra, but the language is pared down to essentials.

Havergal  
**BRIAN**  
(1876-1972)

**Symphony No. 4**

**'Das Siegeslied' (Psalm of Victory) (1932-33)**

**49:49**

**1-4 I: Maestoso<sup>†</sup>**

**16:08**

**5-7 II: Lento\***

**11:22**

**8-14 III: Allegro (bewegt)<sup>†</sup>**

**22:19**

**Symphony No. 12 (1957)**

**11:08**

**15 Introduction**

**1:26**

**16 Allegro maestoso**

**2:07**

**17 A Tempo Marcia Lento**

**3:36**

**18 Adagio espressivo**

**2:03**

**19 Allegro vivo**

**1:56**

**Jana Valášková, Soprano\* • Slovak Philharmonic Choir<sup>†</sup>**  
**Slovak National Opera Chorus<sup>†</sup> • Echo Youth Choir<sup>†</sup>**  
**Cantus Mixed Choir<sup>†</sup> • Czech Philharmonic Choir, Brno<sup>†</sup>**  
**Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra • Adrian Leaper**

**Previously released on Marco Polo 8.223447**

Recorded at the Concert Hall of the Slovak Radio in Bratislava, from 3rd to 8th February, 1992 (tracks 1-14) and from 10th to 11th February, 1992 (tracks 15-19)

Publisher: United Music Publishers Ltd. • Producer: Murray Khouri • Booklet Notes: Malcolm MacDonald  
 Cover image: *The Great Day of His Wrath* by Charles Mottram (1807-76), after John Martin (1789-1854)  
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Playing Time  
**60:57**



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 Booklet notes in English • Sung texts included  
 Made in Canada  
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