

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)

1-4	I: Maestoso [†]	49:49	16:08
5-7	II: Lento*		11:22
8-14	III: Allegro (bewegt) [†]		22:19

Symphony No. 12 (1957)

15	Introduction	11:08	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 Valásková, Soprano* • Slovak Philharmonic Choir[†]

Slovak National Opera Chorus[†] • Echo Youth Choir[†]

Cantus Mixed Choir[†] • Czech Philharmonic Choir, Brno[†]

Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra • Adrian Leaper

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Playing Time
60:57



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