

Johan Svendsen remains pre-eminent among those 19th-century Norwegians who harnessed Romantic Nationalism to Classical musical forms. Inspired by Liszt's *Hungarian Rhapsodies* (8.554480 and 8.554481) the four *Norwegian Rhapsodies* spin traditional melodies into expansive orchestral essays whose eloquence, ebullience and energy has ensured them wide appeal. His *Romeo and Juliet*, completed prior to Tchaikovsky's fantasy-overture, and *Zorahayda*, based on Washington Irving's tale of a Moorish princess and a Christian knight, are dreamy musical vocations of two classic love stories. Svendsen's two symphonies are also available on 8.553898.

Johan
SVENDSEN
 (1840-1911)

Norwegian Rhapsodies Nos. 1-4

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| 1 | Romeo og Julie (Romeo and Juliet), Op. 18 | 12:17 |
| 2 | Norwegian Rhapsody No. 1, Op. 17 | 9:13 |
| 3 | Norwegian Rhapsody No. 2, Op. 19 | 8:51 |
| 4 | Norwegian Rhapsody No. 3, Op. 21 | 9:54 |
| 5 | Norwegian Rhapsody No. 4, Op. 22 | 12:18 |
| 6 | Zorahayda, Op. 11 | 12:21 |

South Jutland Symphony Orchestra
Bjarte Engeset

Recorded at Alsjon Concert Hall, Sønderborg, Denmark, from 18th to 21st December, 2007

Producer and engineer: Tim Handley

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Booklet notes: Richard Whitehouse

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DDD

8.570322

Playing Time
 64:55



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