

The music of renowned Chinese composer Xia Guan has been received with acclaim in Moscow, Vienna, Tokyo and New York. The solemn first movement of *Earth Requiem*, a commemoration of the devastating 2008 Sichuan earthquake, is heard here in an orchestral version that depicts 'the suffering people who gaze upwards'. The epic *Symphony No. 2 'Hope'* is a reflection upon the co-existence of good and evil in mankind, agony and hope, in music of considerable breadth and increasing warmth. Heroic drama animates the vividly scored *Symphonic Ballade*, which draws on the music of Guan's opera *Sorrowful Dawn*, the story of China's War of Liberation following the end of World War Two.



XIA GUAN

(b. 1957)

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| | Symphony No. 2 'Hope' (1999) | 43:54 |
| 1 | Expectation and Quest: Largo – Allegro – Largo | 20:39 |
| 2 | Warmth: Adagio | 11:31 |
| 3 | The Light: Allegro | 11:44 |
| 4 | Earth Requiem: I. Gazing at the Stars: Meditation (orchestral version) (1999/2008-09) | 9:36 |
| 5 | Sorrowful Dawn – Symphonic Ballade (2000) | 18:11 |

WORLD PREMIÈRE RECORDINGS

Nuremberg Symphony Orchestra

En Shao

Recorded at the Musiksaal, Kongresshalle, Nuremberg, Germany, on 1st and 2nd August, 2014
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Playing Time
71:42



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