

Havergal Brian was never a conventional composer, but the three later works on this disc rank among his most unconventional approaches to the symphonic form. The highly virtuosic *Doctor Merryheart* portrays an imaginary astronomer's musical obsessions. The artless spontaneity of *Symphony No. 11*, whose *Adagio* is one of Brian's most profound inspirations, and the extrovert character of *Symphony No. 15*, are firmly grounded in Brian's resourceful technical mastery. The martial vigour of the early overture *For Valour* drew inspiration from the Walt Whitman poem *Drum Taps* (also used by Vaughan Williams in *Dona nobis pacem*, Naxos 8.572424).

RTÉ

Havergal BRIAN

(1876-1972)

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|-------|---|-------|
| 1-5 | Concert Overture: For Valour (1902-06) † | 13:31 |
| 6-14 | Comedy Overture:
Doctor Merryheart (1911-12) ‡ | 16:07 |
| | Symphony No. 11 (1954) ‡ | 24:38 |
| 15 | Adagio | 6:40 |
| 16-19 | Allegro giocoso | 14:00 |
| 20-22 | Maestoso e pesante – Allegro marcia | 3:58 |
| 23-28 | Symphony No. 15 (1960) † | 22:54 |

RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra

Tony Rowe † • Adrian Leaper ‡

Previously released on Marco Polo 8.223588

Recorded in association with the Havergal Brian Society and The Rex Foundation
at the National Concert Hall, Dublin, on 6th September, 1993 (tracks 6-14 and 15-22),
and on 27th May, 1997 (tracks 1-5 and 23-28)

Producer: Chris Craker • Engineers: Chris Craker and Dave Harries

Booklet Notes: Malcolm MacDonald

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Playing Time
77:10



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