

Qunihico Hashimoto was one of the leading Japanese composers in the first half of the twentieth century. His synthesis of Japanese and European musical forms was founded on two years of study and travel in the West. *Symphony No. 2* was commissioned to celebrate Japan's new post-war Constitution, but combines jubilation with an introspective nostalgia. *Three Wasan* sets Buddhist texts which describe the beauty of 'pure land' or heaven, merging traditional chant with *bel canto* expressiveness. Innovative for its time, the early *Scherzo con sentimento* melds Japanese music with Western neo-classicism. Hashimoto's *Symphony No. 1* can be heard on 8.555881.

**Qunihico**  
**HASHIMOTO**  
 (1904-49)

	<b>Symphony No. 2 (1947)<sup>†</sup></b>	<b>33:39</b>
①	<b>I. Allegro moderato</b>	<b>20:29</b>
②	<b>II. Finale</b>	<b>13:10</b>
	<b>Three Wasan (1948)*<sup>†</sup></b>	<b>15:31</b>
③	<b>I. The delicate, wondrous sounds of jewel-trees in the jewel-forests</b>	<b>5:35</b>
④	<b>II. Pure winds blow in the jewel-trees</b>	<b>4:55</b>
⑤	<b>III. Shine brilliantly from within each flower</b>	<b>5:01</b>
⑥	<b>Scherzo con sentimento (1928)</b>	<b>16:12</b>

**† WORLD PREMIÈRE RECORDINGS**

**Akiya Fukushima, Baritone\***

**Tokyo Geidai Philharmonia • Takuo Yuasa**

Recorded at Sōgakudō Concert Hall, Tokyo, Japan, on 20th and 21st February, 2011  
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 Engineer and editor: Toru Kamekawa • Assistant engineer and editor: Makoto Iwasaki  
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 Booklet notes: Mari Saegusa • Cover photograph by Jeeragone Inrut (Dreamstime.com)



**DDD**

8.572869

Playing Time  
 65:22



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