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Playing Time
58:34

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The symphonic poems Smetana wrote during his stay in Sweden were composed during a pivotal time in his life. Financial prospects at first seemed better in Gothenburg than in his native country, while the dual influences of Berlioz and Liszt were informing the direction of his music. *Richard III* is not a programmatic drama, but focuses instead on the haunting scene before the Battle of Bosworth in Shakespeare's play. *Wallenstein's Camp* is symphonically structured, while *Hakon Jarl* dramatises the life of the tyrannical Viking warrior with memorable flair.

Bedřich
SMETANA
(1824–1884)

Swedish Symphonic Poems

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|---|--|--------------|
| 1 | Richard III, symphonic poem
after Shakespeare, Op. 11 (1858) | 14:13 |
| 2 | Wallenstein's Camp, symphonic poem
after Schiller, Op. 14 (1859) | 16:15 |
| 3 | Hakon Jarl, symphonic poem
after Oehlenschläger, Op. 16 (1861) | 17:20 |
| 4 | Festive Symphony, Op. 6 – III. Scherzo (1854) | 10:37 |

Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra
Leoš Svárovský

Recorded: 16–18 and 23–24 June 2014 at the Concert Hall of the Slovak Philharmonic, Bratislava, Slovakia

Producer: Marek Piaček • Engineer: Václav Frkal

Booklet notes: Keith Anderson

Cover painting: *David Garrick as Richard III* (1745) by William Hogarth (1697–1764)