

Charles-Marie Widor's ten organ symphonies sit at the heart of his extensive *oeuvre*. They reveal Widor's mastery of the form with their profundity, technical difficulty and sonorous colour. *Symphony No. 7, Op. 42, No. 3* inaugurated a new, orchestral approach to the genre and encompasses dreamlike sonorities, Chopinesque melancholy and majestic bravura. The *Symphonie gothique, Op. 70* makes explicit reference to Gregorian chant, developing a kind of theological 'programme music' that is both austere and consolatory.

Charles-Marie
WIDOR
(1844–1937)

Organ Symphonies • 3

Symphony No. 7 in A minor, Op. 42, No. 3 (1885)	46:44	Symphonie gothique, Op. 70 (1895)	32:42
1 I. Moderato	7:04	7 I. Moderato	8:45
2 II. Choral: Andante	8:19	8 II. Andante sostenuto	5:27
3 III. Andante – Allegretto	7:01	9 III. Allegro	4:46
4 IV. Allegro ma non troppo	8:30	10 IV. Moderato	13:35
5 V. Lento	6:10		
6 VI. Finale: Allegro vivace	9:29		

Christian von Blohn
on the Organ of St Joseph's Church,
Sankt Ingbert, Germany

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Playing Time
79:34



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