



TOCC 0249

Martinů's mature orchestral works are now a mainstay of the repertoire. But the generous quantity of orchestral music he wrote between his late teens and early thirties is as good as unknown; some of it, indeed, has never even been performed. That's the case with the ballet *Stín* ('The Shadow') from 1916, which has its world premiere in this recording – astonishingly, in view of the quality of the music it contains. Although the action of the ballet is dark – a girl dances with her shadow in the presence of Death – Martinů's score presents a series of remarkably buoyant and cheery dances.

MARTINŮ Early Orchestral Works, Volume Two

1-19 Stín ('The Shadow') – Ballet in One Act, H102 (1916)

Dorota Szczepańska, offstage soprano **2 19**

Anna Maria Staśkiewicz, violin **4-6 12 17**

Agnieszka Kopacka, piano

Sinfonia Varsovia

Ian Hobson, conductor

TT 66:37

FIRST RECORDING

Reviews of Volume One in this series

'Ian Hobson proves a wholly sympathetic interpreter, securing fine, idiomatic performances throughout from Sinfonia Varsovia, in excellent sound. It may not be Martinů as we know it, but this is a hugely enjoyable, fascinating disc.'

Guy Rickards, *Klassisk Musikkmagasin*

'Whatever the problems involved in the transcription and/or completion of these orchestral scores, [...] the end result is a stunning vindication of hard work plus an inspired interpreter. [...] Hobson's deeply ingrained sensitivity as a performer comes through in everything he does.'

Lynn René Bayley, *Fanfare*

'gosh these pieces are lovely. [...] It made me happy – it's an hour of sheer aural satisfaction, and it's downright bizarre that this music isn't better-known. Treat yourself!'

Brian Reinhart, *MusicWeb International*

TOCCATA CLASSICS
16 Dalkeith Court,
Vincent Street,
London SW1P 4HH, UK

Tel: +44/0 207 821 5020
E-mail: info@toccataclassics.com

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