

TOCCATA
CLASSICS
TOCC 0263

The rediscovery of the music of the Edinburgh composer Charles O'Brien (1882–1968) continues with this second CD of his orchestral music. Two expansive 'concert overtures', the bright, Schumannesque *To Spring* and dark, Lisztian *The Minstrel's Curse* – symphonic poems in all but name – contrast with two charming miniatures from O'Brien's youth and a colourful evocation of Scottish life, in a suite consisting of a tone-poem, an heroic elegy and a dancing finale.

CHARLES O'BRIEN Complete Orchestral Music, Volume Two

1	<i>To Spring: Concert Overture, Op. 4</i> (1906)	13:43
2	<i>The Minstrel's Curse: Concert Overture, Op. 7</i> (1905)	25:04
3	<i>Mazurka</i> (1898)	2:36
4	<i>Berceuse</i> (1898)	3:38
	<i>Scottish Scenes, Op. 17</i> (1915, orch. 1929)	20:01
7	I Moorland	8:55
8	II Voices in the Glen	7:02
9	III Harvest Home	4:04

Liepāja Symphony Orchestra
Paul Mann

TT 65:24

FIRST RECORDINGS

Volume One (TOCC 0262) reviewed:

'His wind writing is elegant, and thematic ideas are kicked around with some wit. One of two of the string phrases remind the listener of Elgar, but more interesting perhaps is his use of motifs, some glowering, some static – a kind of profitable series of oppositions couched in a relatively conventional late-Romantic framework. [...] there's a strong vein of dance music running through this work. [...] beautifully played and paced, and finely recorded as well, and is thus shown to its best advantage. As O'Brien's only symphony it's a worthy discovery for admirers of British music, who will await volume two with enthusiasm.'

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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