

Fridrich Bruk – born in Kharkov in 1937 and a Finnish resident since 1974 – made his name as a composer of tangos. But the heart of his music lies in a series of eighteen symphonies, which have a strong narrative element, some reflecting Jewish themes, others inspired by Karelia and Finland. Symphony No. 17, *Joy of Life* (which Bruk also calls a 'Concerto-Symphony for Orchestra and Piano'), has an autobiographical programme charting, in abstract terms, Bruk's surmounting of the obstacles fate put in his path. Symphony No. 18 takes as its starting point a Latvian-Jewish folksong: it is premised on the deportation of his grandparents from their Latvian home, in an anti-Semitic campaign by Tsarist Russia that Bruk sees as a kind of prologue to the Holocaust.



TOCC 0455

FRIDRICH BRUK Orchestral Music, Volume One

Symphony No. 17, *Joy of Life* (2016)

- 1 I Attempts: *Andantino*
 2 II Sorrow: *Largamente*
 3 III Strength: *Robusto. Con spirito*

26:21

12:01

8:36

5:44

Symphony No. 18, *Daugavpils* (2017)

- 4 I Rose (Rūžena): *Andante*
 5 II Daugavpils 1915 – Banishment: *Allegretto*
 III Five Variations on an Own Theme
 6 Theme: *Pensieroso*
 7 Var. 1
 8 Var. 2: *Lento*
 9 Var. 3
 10 Var. 4: *Sostenuto*
 11 Var. 5

30:36

14:56

9:53

5:47

0:43

0:31

0:26

1:40

2:14

1:13

TT 57:59

Gertruda Jerjomenko, piano 1–3

Anda Eglīte, kokle 4 11

Liepāja Symphony Orchestra

Māris Kupčs, conductor

FIRST RECORDINGS

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