Kôschak Yamada was one of the great pioneers of 20th century Japanese music, who played a defining role in helping Western music take root in Japan. During his studies in Berlin with, among others, Max Bruch, Yamada composed the first-ever work for a western orchestra, the *Overture in D major*, and the first-ever symphony, *Triumph and Peace*, by a Japanese composer. Dating from 1912 and written along traditional classical lines, both works show Yamada's indebtedness to Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Mendelssohn, Brahms and Dvořák. One year later, in a completely different vein, Yamada composed the two symphonic poems *The Dark Gate* and *Madara No Hana* which, while absorbing the influence of Richard Strauss, Debussy and Scriabin, were written freely with no restraints imposed by his teachers. It is possible to hear in these two works a prototype of Japanese composition which was eventually to lead to the music of Toru Takemitsu.

**Kôschak Yamada**

(1886-1965)

1. *Overture in D major* (1912) 3:32
2. *Symphony in F major 'Triumph and Peace'* (1912) 36:16
3. *Moderato* 8:46
4. *Adagio non tanto e poco marciale* 11:22
5. *Poco vivace* 5:48
6. *Adagio molto - Molto allegro e trionfante* 10:21
7. *Symphonic Poem 'The Dark Gate'* (1913) 10:53
8. *Symphonic Poem 'Madara No Hana'* (1913) 7:40

Ulster Orchestra • New Zealand Symphony Orchestra*

Takuo Yuasa

Track 1 - World Première Recording

Recorded at Wellington Town Hall, Wellington, New Zealand, 30th January 2002 (track 1); Ulster Hall, Belfast, Northern Ireland, 7th-8th June 2001 (tracks 2-5); 16th-17th September 2000 (tracks 6 and 7)

Producer: Andrew Walton (K&A Productions Ltd.) • Engineer: Eleanor Thomason
Post-Production: Emma Stocker and Andrew Walton

Artistic Advisor & Booklet Notes: Morihide Katayama

Cover Painting: *Birds and Flowers*, a pair of six-panelled folding screens, colours and ink on paper (detail) by Yuki, 18th Century (The Tokugawa Art Museum)

This recording has been recorded and edited at 24 bit resolution.