

Having successfully completed his *First Symphony* after a fifteen-year struggle, Brahms began composing his *Second* almost immediately. His friend, the scholar Philipp Spitta, noted that 'the first two symphonies form a contrasted imaginative pair entirely characteristic of the composer, and they must be regarded as stemming from a single deeply-hidden root'.

This is the second release in Naxos's major new cycle of the Brahms Symphonies featuring the internationally acclaimed London Philharmonic Orchestra and conductor Marin Alsop. 'Marin Alsop brings the right balance of freshness and tradition to Brahms' *First Symphony*. Alsop admirably captures the symphony's mixture of dynamism and lyricism.' (*The Daily Telegraph* on Naxos 8.557428).

Johannes BRAHMS

(1833-1897)

Symphony No. 2 in D major, Op. 73

① I. Allegro non troppo 20:05

② II. Adagio non troppo 9:46

③ III. Allegretto grazioso,
quasi andantino 5:14

④ IV. Allegro con spirito 9:46

Hungarian Dances

⑤ No. 1 in G minor (orch. Brahms) 3:24

⑥ No. 3 in F major (orch. Brahms) 2:46

⑦ No. 10 in F major (orch. Brahms) 1:52

⑧ No. 17 in F sharp minor
(orch. Dvořák) 3:37

⑨ No. 18 in D major (orch. Dvořák) 1:31

⑩ No. 19 in B minor (orch. Dvořák) 2:38

⑪ No. 20 in E minor (orch. Dvořák) 2:44

⑫ No. 21 in E minor (orch. Dvořák) 1:42

London Philharmonic Orchestra • Marin Alsop

A recorded interview with Marin Alsop about her approach to conducting the Brahms Symphonies can be heard at www.naxos.com/marin/brahms-symphonies

Tracks 1-4 recorded at Blackheath Concert Hall, London, UK on 21st and 22nd March 2005.

Tracks 5-12 recorded at Watford Colosseum, Watford, UK on July 28th, 2005.

Producer and engineer: Tim Handley • Booklet notes: Robert Pascall

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8.557429

DDD

Playing Time
65:06



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