

This fourth volume of the Naxos Robert Craft Schoenberg Collection features Schoenberg's largest and greatest orchestral work. *Variations, Op. 31* is a sequence of short and clearly delineated pieces. Their succession follows the tradition of a fast, full-orchestra piece succeeded by a slower one for few instruments, each with a contrasting character, rhythm, and sonority. The highly inventive *Serenade* for septet and bass – it also includes a mandolin and guitar – is an exuberant, melodious work which makes frequent use of Classical models.

Arnold SCHOENBERG

(1874-1951)

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| 1-7 | Serenade, Op. 24* | 33:13 |
| 8-19 | Variations for Orchestra, Op. 31† | 20:40 |
| 20-22 | Bach Orchestrations† | 14:01 |

Stephen Varcoe, Bass* • Charles Neidich, Clarinet*

Alan R. Kay, Bass clarinet* • Peter Press, Mandolin*

David Starobin, Guitar* • Rolf Schulte, Violin* • Toby Appel, Viola*

Fred Sherry, Cello* • Twentieth Century Classics Ensemble*

Philharmonia Orchestra† • Robert Craft

Full recording details can be found on pages 2 and 3 of the booklet

Previously released on Koch International Classics

Tracks 1-7 recorded on January 10th, 1994, at Master Sound Astoria Studios, New York.

Producer: Michael Fine • Engineer: Ben Rizzi

Tracks 8-22 recorded in July and October 1998, at Abbey Road Studio One, London.

Producer: Gregory K. Squires • Editor: Richard Price • Engineer: Michael Sheedy

Assistant engineers: Alex Scannell and Dave Forty

Recording mastered by Richard Price, Squires Productions Inc.

Booklet Notes: Robert Craft

Cover painting: *Aleph Nun Yud* by Ulrich Osterloh (www.osterlohart.de) (courtesy of the artist)



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Playing Time
67:54



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Includes sung texts and translations
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