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Playing Time
72:33

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By the time of his death, at the age of 91, Foerster had become the grand old man of Czech music. Written under the spell of Bruckner and Mahler, the *Symphony No. 4* is widely regarded as his masterpiece. This deeply religious work begins with a Mahlerian march, followed by a bucolic scherzo that would be at home among Dvořák's *Slavonic Dances*. The lovely slow movement provides yet more evidence of Foerster's superb ear for orchestral colour while the finale, the longest and most complex of the four movements, builds inexorably to a majestic climax that has been likened to approaching the gates of heaven.

Josef Bohuslav
FOERSTER
(1859–1951)

Symphony No. 4, 'Easter Eve'
Festive Overture • Meine Jugend

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|---|---|-------|
| 1 | Festive Overture, Op. 70 * | 9:26 |
| 2 | Meine Jugend (My Youth), Symphonic Poem, Op. 44 * | 15:50 |
| | Symphony No. 4 in C minor, Op. 54, 'Easter Eve' | 47:08 |
| 3 | I. Molto sostenuto | 12:08 |
| 4 | II. Allegro deciso | 10:21 |
| 5 | III. Andante sostenuto | 8:47 |
| 6 | IV. Lento lugubre – Allegro moderato | 15:53 |

* World première recordings

Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra
Lance Friedel

Recorded at Slovak Radio (Bratislava), 8–14 September 2004

Producer: Emil Niznansky • Sound Engineer: Hubert Geschwandtner • Booklet notes: Lance Friedel
Editions: Barenreiter Praha (Festive Overture); Universal Edition, Vienna (Meine Jugend, Symphony No. 4)
Cover image: Portrait of Josef Bohuslav Foerster by his brother Viktor Foerster (Lebrecht Music & Arts)