



AMERICAN CLASSICS

Howard Hanson, a composer of imagination and sweep and a colorist of huge eloquence, is one of the most approachable of all twentieth century symphonists. His guiding spirit was always Sibelius, and in the *Symphony No. 1 'Nordic'* he used the same key as in the Finnish composer's own *First Symphony*. The work is haunting, rapturous and serene, beautifully orchestrated and wholly commanding. *The Lament for Beowulf*, written for chorus and orchestra, dates from 1925. Its dark, brooding tension reflects its poetic inspiration with indelible force. "This is confident, generous, beautifully made music, richly (and sensitively) scored. Schwarz, and his splendid Seattle orchestra do not short-change us on any of this and they are beautifully, ripely, recorded here." (*Gramophone* on the original Delos release)

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Howard
HANSON
(1896-1981)

**Symphony No. 1
'Nordic' (1922)**

29:23

- | | | |
|----------|--|--------------|
| 1 | I. Andante solenne: Allegro con forza | 12:45 |
| 2 | II. Andante teneramente, con semplicità | 6:09 |
| 3 | III. Allegro con fuoco | 10:29 |
| 4 | The Lament
for Beowulf (1925)* | 19:11 |

Seattle Symphony and *Chorale
Gerard Schwarz

Previously released on Delos International.

The sung texts can be found inside the booklet, and may also be accessed at www.naxos.com/libretti/559700.htm

Recorded at Seattle Opera House, Seattle, WA,
on 10th September, 1988 (tracks 1-3),
and on 16th and 18th February, 1990 (track 4)

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Producer: Adam Stern • Engineer: John Eargle

Assistant engineers: Al Swanson,
Andrew Dawson, Butch Jones

Booklet notes: Steven Lowe and Steven Smith

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Playing
Time:
48:34

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