

Studio recording of complete works for BBC Music Magazine

DVOŘÁK

SYMPHONY NO. 7
THE WATER GOBLIN
SLAVONIC DANCE OP. 72/1

BBC
music
MAGAZINE

Volume V Number 12

VASSILY SINAISKY
BBC Philharmonic

Antonín Dvořák

(1841-1904)

1 Slavonic Dance in B, Op. 72/1 4:17

2 The Water Goblin 22:32

Symphony No. 7 in D minor

3 I Allegro maestoso 11:40

4 II Poco adagio 10:11

5 III Scherzo: Vivace – Poco meno mosso – Vivace 7:57

6 IV Finale: Allegro 9:14

Total CD duration 66:00 mins



BBC Philharmonic,
conducted by Vassily Sinaisky

The orchestral works on this CD show three contrasting facets of Dvořák's creativity: the popular nationalist, the writer of programme music and the orthodox symphonist.

Dvořák was doubtful that he could repeat the overwhelming success of his first set of Slavonic Dances. But, working on a new collection in 1886, he admitted they sounded 'like the devil'. Melodious and rhythmically exciting, the second set of dances add a layer of subtlety to the vivid excitement of the earlier group.

On Dvořák's return from America in 1895, a strong nostalgic interest in the folklore of his native Bohemia prompted him to compose four symphonic poems. Picturesque and more than a little macabre – *The Water Goblin* tells of a sprite who wreaks a horrible revenge on the human he has married when she escapes his clutches – their virtuoso orchestration places them among Dvořák's most exhilarating works.

Dvořák's Seventh Symphony is thought by many to be his greatest orchestral work, a remarkable synthesis of symphonic orthodoxy and generous lyricism. Completed in 1885 for the Philharmonic Society of London, Dvořák was aware of the scrutiny of both an international public and his friend Brahms. Wanting to compose a symphony that would 'stir the world', the aspiring, epic tone of the outer movements frame a profound Adagio and his most captivating symphonic scherzo. *Jan Smaczny*