



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

BRAHMS

SYMPHONY NO. 4

MACMILLAN

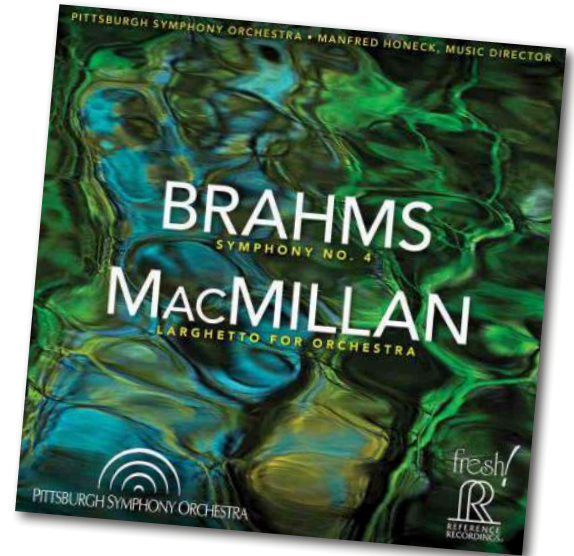
LARGHETTO FOR ORCHESTRA



PITTSBURGH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
MANFRED HONECK, MUSIC DIRECTOR

REFERENCE RECORDINGS FR-744SACD

Street Date: October 22, 2021



GREAT PERFORMANCES, GREAT SOUND, AND A WORLD PREMIERE!

SAN FRANCISCO—Reference Recordings proudly presents the *Symphony No. 4* of Johannes Brahms, with James MacMillan's *Larghetto for Orchestra*, in exceptional performances from Manfred Honeck and the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. We are excited that this release coincides with the orchestra's 2021-2022 season and triumphant return to live concerts! These works were recorded live in beautiful and historic Heinz Hall, now celebrating its 50th Anniversary season.

Maestro Honeck honors us again with his meticulous music notes, in which he gives us great insight into his unique interpretation as well as the history and musical structure of Brahms's final and beloved tragic symphony.

James MacMillan is the preeminent Scottish composer of his generation. His *Larghetto for Orchestra* was commissioned by the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra in honor of the tenth anniversary of Manfred Honeck as Music Director. It had its world premiere performance in October 2017. This album contains the world premiere recording. The composer generously includes his own album notes about this solemn and repentant, but ultimately hopeful work.

The **Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra**, known for its artistic excellence for more than 125 years, is credited with a rich history of the world's finest conductors and musicians, and is deeply committed to Pittsburgh and its region. Since 2008, the Pittsburgh Symphony has been led by its worldwide acclaimed Music Director Manfred Honeck. Past music directors have included many of the greats, including Fritz Reiner, William Steinberg, André Previn, Lorin Maazel and Mariss Jansons. The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra has always been at the forefront of championing new works, including recent commissions by Mason Bates, Jonathan Leshnoff, James MacMillan and Julia Wolfe. The Pittsburgh Symphony has a long and illustrious history in the areas of recordings and live radio broadcasts dating back to the 1930s. It has toured frequently both domestically and overseas since 1900—including more than 40 international tours. The Pittsburgh Symphony continues to be critically acclaimed as one of the world's greatest orchestras.

This release is the twelfth in the highly acclaimed *Pittsburgh Live!* series of multi-channel hybrid SACD releases on the *FRESH!* imprint from Reference Recordings. This series has received GRAMMY® Nominations in 2015, 2016, 2018, 2019 and 2020. Its recording of Shostakovich's *Symphony No.5 /Barber Adagio for Strings* won the 2018 GRAMMY® Awards for **Best Orchestral Performance** and **Best Engineered Classical Album**. The *Pittsburgh Live!* series are recorded and mastered by **Soundmirror**, whose outstanding orchestral, solo, opera and chamber recordings have received more than 130 GRAMMY® nominations and awards.

Reference Recordings, founded in 1976 in San Francisco, has multiple GRAMMY® awards and a catalog that includes numerous American and international orchestras, ensembles and choruses. *FRESH!* is part of Reference Recordings' mission to encourage unique and fine artists, and give them a strong platform for promotion and sales nationally and internationally. Reference Recordings are distributed in North America by Naxos USA, and internationally through a network of independent distributors listed at: www.ReferenceRecordings.com



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Hybrid SACD contains 5.0 and Stereo SACD and CD stereo with HDCD
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also available in high resolution and standard resolution digital downloads

BRAHMS

SYMPHONY NO. 4

- I. Allegro non troppo 12:38
- II. Andante moderato 11:06
- III. Allegro giocoso 5:54
- IV. Allegro energico e passionato 9:26

MACMILLAN

LARGHETTO FOR ORCHESTRA

Larghetto for Orchestra 14:56

Total Time: 54:00



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MANFRED HONECK, MUSIC DIRECTOR

Recorded Live
Heinz Hall for the Performing Arts, Pittsburgh, PA
Brahms Symphony No. 4 (April 20-22, 2018)
MacMillan *Larghetto for Orchestra* (October 27-29, 2017)

Soundmirror, Boston:
Recording Producer: Dirk Sobotka
Balance Engineer: Mark Donahue
Editing: Dirk Sobotka
Mixing and Mastering: Mark Donahue

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