

Parry – Symphonies Nos. 3 & 4 (1991)

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Symphony No.3 in C major 'The English' 34:28 1 I *Allegro energico* 7:50 2 II *Andante sostenuto* 10:02 3 III *Allegro molto scherzoso* 5:25 4 IV *Moderato* 11:01
Symphony No. 4 in E minor 41:38
5 I *Con fuoco* 16:10 6 II *Molto Adagio* 8:32 7 III *Allegretto* 7:30 8 IV *Spiritoso* 9:15
London Philharmonic Orchestra Matthias Bamert – conductor

If my house was ablaze and I had time to save one CD on my way out of the door this would be it. The first piece of Parry I ever heard was the third movement of the fourth symphony - it was on a Chandos sampler disc; it was tuneful, light, almost dancing, and it captivated me. I am pleased to say that when I bought the CD I was not disappointed. The third symphony is a joy, full of good tunes sumptuously orchestrated ending in a wonderful finale with Parry's trademark of a strong tune worked through a series of variations. As in the 4th Symphony the scherzo is an almost dance like tune of great charm. The 4th symphony is one of the great secrets of English classical music, the coda of the 1st movement shows a change of pace and mood unmatched in any other symphony, ending in a mood of nobilmente that pre-dates Elgar's similar style by more than a decade and, for sure Elgar never did it better. The finale is a full tilt and full power romantic period classic. According to the Germans we were "the land without music" but this stuff leaves Brahms and Schumann standing. ---Jon Linin, amazon.com

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