

José Viana da Mota – À Pátria. Sinfonia (2015)



À Pátria - Sinfonia, Op. 13 (43:23) 1 *I. Allegro Eroico* 9:40 2 *II. Adagio Molto* 13:51 3 *III. Vivace* 6:14 4 *IV. Decadence - Fight - Resurgence* 13:38 5 *Inês De Castro - Tone Poem* 13:27 6 *Chula Do Douro* 2:12 7 *Três Improvisos Sobre Motivos Populares Portugueses* 3:55 8 *Vito* 4:25
Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra
Álvaro Cassuto - conductor

The most distinguished pianist of his generation, a brilliant pedagogue and a highly gifted composer, José Viana da Mota was a towering personality in the field of Portuguese music. Disapproving of modernistic compositional trends he stopped composing around 1910 but not before he had written his Symphony To the Homeland, a brilliantly orchestrated paean to Portuguese prowess and discovery which makes use of Portuguese folk dances and songs. Based on the dramatic life and murder of the 14th-century noblewoman Inês de Castro, Viana da Mota's Lisztian symphonic poem is an early work notable for its kaleidoscopic sections full of inspiring contrasts. This recording presents the complete orchestral works of Viana da Mota.
---Editorial Reviews

Born in the Portuguese African colony of São Tomé, José Viana da Mota (1868–1948) started out as a child prodigy, performing on the piano at the age of six for Fernando II, a prince of Saxe-Coburg. Viana da Mota achieved worldwide recognition as one of the leading exponents of the Lisztian piano school, both as a concert soloist and as a chamber musician collaborating with such distinguished partners as fellow pianist Ferruccio Busoni, violinist Pablo Sarasate and soprano Marcella Sembrich. He also enjoyed a brilliant teaching career at both the Berlin and Geneva conservatories, and in 1917 the Portuguese government appointed him head of a committee charged with reforming the teaching programme and methods of the the Lisbon

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Conservatory, of which he then became Director two years later. For the next three decades he was responsible for training several of the most acclaimed Portuguese pianists of the generations. ---grandpianorecords.com

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