

Masao Ohki's *Symphony No. 5*, introduced to world-wide audiences by Arvid Jansons and Leopold Stokowski, was one of the first of many Japanese works to be dedicated to the tragedy of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima in August 1945. Based on six paintings by Iri and Toshi Maruki, *The Hiroshima Panels* (tracks 3 to 8), to which Ohki added a *Prelude* and a final *Elegy*, *Hiroshima Symphony* is a graphic and moving depiction of the devastation of the atomic bomb and of the terrible suffering of the inhabitants of Hiroshima. The *Symphony* is written in an expressionistic style which makes frequent use of bold, dissonant harmonies, alternating with the tranquil and solemn music of *No*, a Japanese traditional ceremonial play related to the pacification of spirits.

Masao  
**OHKI**  
(1901-1971)

WORLD PREMIERE  
RECORDINGS

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| ① Japanese Rhapsody (1938)   | 12:57 |
| Symphony No. 5 'Hiroshima' (1953)  | 39:08 |
| ② Prelude  | 3:16  |
| ③ Ghosts - <i>It was a procession of ghosts.</i>   | 4:34  |
| ④ Fire - <i>Next moment fire burst into flames.</i>  | 2:25  |
| ⑤ Water - <i>People wandered around seeking water.</i>   | 5:39  |
| ⑥ Rainbow - <i>All of a sudden black rain poured over them and then appeared a beautiful rainbow.</i>              | 1:58  |
| ⑦ Boys and Girls - <i>Boys and girls died without knowing any joy of human life and calling for their parents.</i> | 5:20  |
| ⑧ Atomic Desert - <i>Boundless desert with skulls.</i>   | 4:15  |
| ⑨ Elegy  | 11:41 |

New Japan Philharmonic • Takuo Yuasa

Recorded at Sumida Triphony Hall, Tokyo, from 1st - 2nd May 2005  
Recorded and edited at 24 bit resolution.

Producer: Hisaaki Matsushita • Engineer: Takao Suga  
Artistic Adviser & Music Notes: Morihide Katayama

Cover Image: *The central part of the city of Hiroshima immediately after the atomic bombing (1945)*  
(anonymous)

NAXOS

8.557839

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Playing Time  
52:05



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