

Donald Tovey (1875–1940) has long been known as one of the finest writers on music in English, but he saw himself primarily as a composer. His Cello Concerto – written for his friend Pablo Casals in 1932–33 – may be the longest in history; indeed, as he worked on the score he wrote to a friend that the first movement would be a ‘record-breaker’ and ‘and much the juiciest’ music he had yet produced. The work sits mid-way between Brahms and Elgar, but has a lyrical and dignified voice that is uniquely Tovey’s. The contrasting tone of the dark, heroic *Elegiac Variations* was inspired by the death of Robert Hausmann, cellist of the Joachim Quartet and a cherished chamber-music partner of Tovey’s. And the charming *Air* for strings reveals his delight in a well-turned Classical theme.

MIT DEUTSCHEM KOMMENTAR ~ NOTES EN FRANÇAIS

TOVEY Cello Concerto, *Air* for strings, *Elegiac Variations*

Cello Concerto, Op. 40	54:16	5 <i>Air (Andante cantabile)</i> for strings	
1 <i>Allegro moderato</i>	25:28	(arr. Peter Shore)*	2:15
2 <i>Andante maestoso</i>	11:57		
3 Intermezzo: <i>Andante innocente, con moto quasi allegretto</i>	2:38	6 <i>Elegiac Variations, Op. 25, for cello and piano</i>	10:11
4 Rondo: <i>Allegro giocoso</i>	14:13		TT: 67:04

Alice Neary, cello **1-4, 6**
The Ulster Orchestra **1-5**
George Vass, conductor **1-5**
Gretel Dowdeswell **6**

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CELLO CONCERTO; *FIRST RECORDING

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