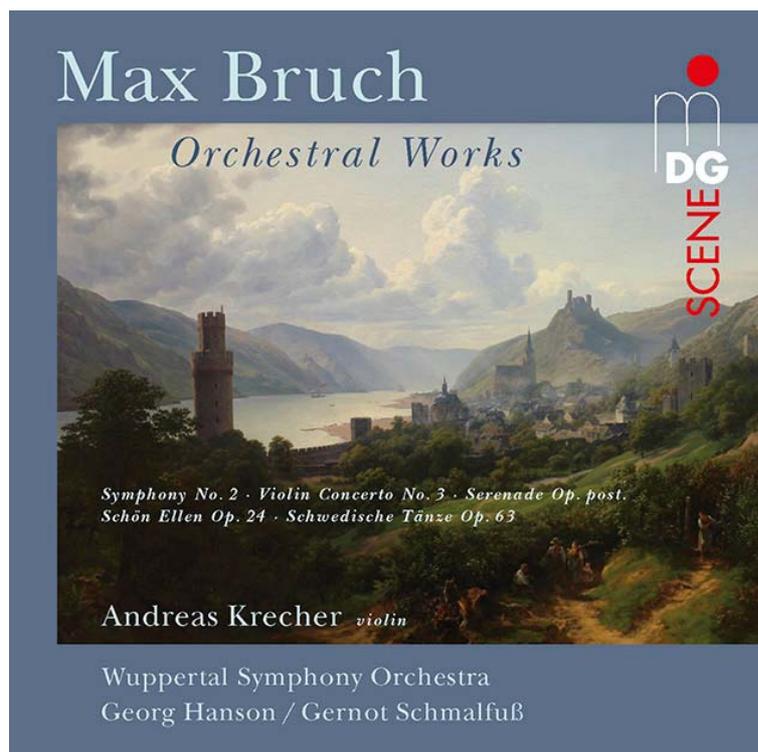


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MDG  
SCENE



**Max Bruch**  
(1838 - 1920)

Symphony No. 2  
Violin Concerto No. 3  
Serenade Op. post.  
Schön Ellen Op. 24  
Schwedische Tänze Op. 63

Andreas Krecher, violin  
Wuppertal Symphony Orchestra  
Georg Hanson / Gernot Schmalfuß

**MDG 335 2129-2**

2 CDs for the price of one



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### Ravishing Rarities

Max Bruch bequeathed three violin concertos to posterity – but only one of them continues to be present in today's concert halls. The composer himself regarded his op. 58 in D minor as much more finely composed than the popular G minor concerto. This benchmark recording by Andreas Krecher and the Wuppertal Symphony Orchestra disappeared from the catalogue many years ago, but now the D minor concerto is being rereleased in an attractive double box featuring orchestral works by Bruch. Along with its rarities repertoire, the phenomenal acoustic dimensions of the historic Wuppertal Stadthalle and MDG's legendary natural sound make this double CD a musical feast for the ears.

### Scottish Highlands

"Schön Ellen," a heroic ballad to a text by Emanuel Geibel, was one of the most frequently sung choral works during the nineteenth century. Even though Bruch had no qualms about transferring the action from the Indian colony to the Scottish highlands, the dramatic appeal is absolutely irresistible. Here – along with the superb soloist and conductor George Hanson – the richly traditional Kantorei Barmen-Gemarke plays its role while commenting on the wild plot with vigorous expression.

### Swedish Landscapes

The *Swedish Dances* are a genuine discovery. Bruch unfolds an overpowering widescreen spectacle with a Nordic atmosphere in the two suites; with highly

imaginative instrumentations and musical magic he evokes magnificent soundscapes. And the Serenade for Strings also avails itself of themes from the North – perhaps a place of yearning for the unsettled and restless composer.

### Winning Ways

Bruch's Symphony No. 2 rounds off this program of rarities. In it Schmalfuß presents the Wuppertal Symphony Orchestra as an ensemble that produces a big sound and outstandingly captures the slightly melancholy tone of Bruch's music – while demonstrating that it need not fear to vie with much more famous orchestras.

### also available:

**Anton Rubinstein** (1829-1894)

#### Orchestral Works

Don Quixote op. 87  
Ballet Music from *The Demon*  
Violoncello Concerto  
Symphony No. 2  
Overture triomphale op. 43  
Valse caprice, Trot de Cavalerie  
Sérénade Russe No. 1 op. 93  
Alban Gerhardt, violoncello  
Sinfonieorchester Wuppertal  
George Hanson, dir.

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