

The background of the entire image is a deep blue and purple cosmic scene. In the center, a bright, glowing light source, possibly a star or a nebula, radiates light across the frame. A prominent galaxy or nebula structure is visible, stretching across the upper half of the image. The overall atmosphere is ethereal and vast, suggesting a journey through space or time.

OTTO M. SCHWARZ

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# SYMPHONIC DIMENSIONS

BRATISLAVA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA  
DAVID HERNANDO RICO



Bratislava Symphony Orchestra conducted by David Hernando Rico

This CD contains new, original works for large symphonic orchestra, some of which were originally written for symphonic concert band. The Austrian film composer Otto M. Schwarz is one of the most sought-after of contemporary composers. Not only does he score for television and motion pictures, he has also proved himself as a very versatile artist familiar with many styles and instrumentations. All of his works are inspired by strong images and all tell a story, using a colorful and intense musical language that crosses borders, both literally and figuratively.

The music of Otto M. Schwarz is being performed around the world, in over 35 different countries. His compositions are recorded on CD and are available on-line. All scores are available at [www.dehaske.com](http://www.dehaske.com) and [www.halleonard.com](http://www.halleonard.com)



## OTTO M. SCHWARZ

Otto M. Schwarz, who was born in 1967 in Neunkirchen, Austria, spent his childhood in Lower Austria. His musical education began at Wimpassing Music School and continued at the Academy of Music in Vienna, where he was admitted as the youngest student in 1978, taking Professor Franz Weiss' preparatory class. He also attended classes at the Vienna Philharmonic with Professor Josef Pomberger



(trumpet) and Professor Heinz Kratochwil (music theory). He began composing during his trumpet studies at the age of 15 – mostly in the light entertainment genre. He won the Austrian Federation of Composers' prize in the preliminary round of the 1989 Eurovision Song Contest for his

composition (among 600 entries). In this period he devoted himself increasingly to composition.

In 1992 he established his own recording studio, where he has produced over 2000 titles and 50 Soundtracks. Nowadays as a composer he is responsible for advertising, film scores and theme songs for many Broadcasting Corporations. His music is played and sold in over 80 countries around the world. In 2013 he produced *Symphonic Dimensions*, his first CD for large symphony orchestra, to be published in Autumn 2013

[www.ottomschwarz.com](http://www.ottomschwarz.com)



## THE BRATISLAVA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The Bratislava Symphony Orchestra was formed in the year 2000 by Spanish conductor David Hernando Rico and brings together the best musicians in the city of Bratislava, who are also members of various symphony orchestras that exist in Bratislava.

Apart from performing concerts, the Bratislava Symphony Orchestra additionally specializes in all types of recording, and is one of the few European orchestras devoted to such techniques such as continuous form. Since its inception the orchestra has made more than 500 recordings. The Bratislava Symphony Orchestra also has its own professional support team, from the manager to sound technicians with extensive experience of symphony recordings, film music, music for publishing, pop and great soundtracks for video games.

The orchestra has worked for artists and

producers from around the world from as far afield as the United States, Germany, Austria, the UK, Norway, Finland, Germany and even Iceland, China and Japan for clients such as Warner Music, Sony Music, Azteca Music and Universal Music. The BSO has recorded music by composers such as Otto M. Schwarz, Michele Legrand, Lorne Balfe, Roque Baños, John Debeny, Brian Tyler and Joan Valent among many others.

The BSO has also participated in international festivals such as the Canary Islands Music Festival in 2011.

### DAVID HERNANDO RICO

David Hernando Rico began his piano studies at the Professional Conservatory of Music in Valladolid, Spain. Later, he also studied musicology at the University of Valladolid. He continued his musical studies in orchestra conducting in the Slovak Republic at the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava, under the tutelage of some of the most renowned

conductors. Upon completing his studies, he was invited by the Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra to conduct his graduation concert. He graduated with the highest possible qualification.

He has conducted some of the most important orchestras in Slovakia including the Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra, Košice Philharmonic Orchestra, Slovak Chamber Opera Orchestra, Capella Istropolitana and the Slovak Sinfonietta.

David Hernando Rico continues to study, taking various courses such as at the Internationale Bachakademie in Santiago de Compostela with the renowned conductor Helmuth Rilling. He is currently completing his PhD in music theory at the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava with the highest Spanish scholarship awarded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Since 2000, he has been the musical director of the Bratislava Symphony Orchestra. He has produced more than 500 music recordings of all types, from

classical music to film music, and has worked with many prestigious composers, recording technicians and companies such as Warner Music, Sony Music and many others, and in various different countries including USA, Spain, UK, Norway, Germany and France.

David Hernando Rico often appears as guest conductor of the Orquesta Sinfónica Del Principado de Asturias (Symphony Orchestra of the Principality of Asturias), Orquesta Sinfónica Ciudad de León (Leon Symphony Orchestra), Real Filarmónica de Galicia (Galicia Real Philharmonic), Orquesta Sinfónica de Extremadura (Extremadura Symphonic Orchestra) and the Real Philharmonia of Galicia (with whom he premiered the Spanish film *O Apostol*, with music composed by Philip Glass. The *O Apostol* premiere was performed with live symphony orchestra and choir – the first time a film has been premiered with a live musical performance in Spain.

Currently he is also guest conductor of the Slovak National Opera in Bratislava.

## PROGRAM NOTES

### SYMPHONIC DIMENSIONS

#### Around the World in 80 Days

Around the World in Eighty Days is a well-known adventure novel by the French author Jules Verne, first published in 1873. In this story, the Englishman Phileas Fogg sets off for a journey around the world as a result of a bet with his friends at the London Reform Club. He sets off that very night, together with his servant Passepartout, heading for Egypt, through France, and across Europe. At the same time, the Bank of England happens to have been robbed and a detective by the name of Fix believes he has identified Phileas Fogg as the culprit. In Suez, Fix joins the two world travellers, but doesn't manage to arrest them. The journey continues to India, where they have to cope with infrastructure problems: the railway lines are incomplete and they are forced to continue on elephants. On their way they save the young widow Aouda who is due to be burnt alongside her dead husband. Their route

leads via Hong Kong over China and Japan to America, where they have to deal with buffalo herds, attacking Indians and more. From New York they take a steamboat to Liverpool, where both are arrested by Fix; but soon their innocence is proven and they can head on for London. The bet appears to be lost, but - as they have saved a day by crossing the date line - they succeed after all.

#### *Measure 1:*

The travellers are in London (Big Ben motifs) - the journey begins.

#### *Measure 19-46:*

The train runs through Europe (main theme).

#### *Measure 47-55:*

They cross France and Paris (French motifs)...

#### *Measure 56-62:*

...and Italy (Italian motifs)...

*Measure 84:*

... and finally reach Suez, where detective Fix is already waiting.

*Measure 91-114:*

Arabian impressions

*Measure 115:*

Fix, the ever-present danger

*Measure 120:*

The journey continues by train to India and is unexpectedly interrupted.

*Measure 130:*

The journey continues with an elephant caravan towards Calcutta.

*Measure 156:*

Pure drama: Aouda gets saved from the rite of suttee (widow sacrifice).

*Measure 172:*

They take the boat to Japan.

*Measure 180:*

In Japan

*Measure 192:*

In the 'Wild West'

*Measure 203:*

Indians!!!

*Measure 219:*

After their successful escape, Fogg and Passepartout arrive in New York.

*Measure 222:*

The steamboat is waiting (departure signal).

*Measure 224:*

As fast as possible, they cross the Atlantic Ocean (faster and faster).

*Measure 240:*

Back in London: the clock strikes eight - the bet is won.

*Measure 242:*

Happy Ending - Phileas Fogg and Aouda get married.



## The Story of Anne Frank

Anne Frank was a German Jewish girl who became a victim of the Nazi genocide at the age of 15. In 1934, after Hitler had seized power, she fled Germany with her family to Holland and after the German troops invaded she went into hiding in a concealed house in Amsterdam. This is where she began the diary that to this day serves as a historic document of the time. On the 4th August 1944 the hiding place was given away: the whole family was arrested and a month later deported to Auschwitz. In March 1945 Anne Frank died of typhus in Bergen-Belsen.

For the composer it was a mammoth task to come to grips with the life of Anne Frank. He has two daughters of the same age and his father was born the same year as Anne Frank. It's important that we never forget how politics and race hate infiltrated the life of an innocent girl. In an era in which in some quarters the very existence of camps of mass destruction are denied, the old idols are worshipped and racism is on the

rise again, there can never be too many commemorative works. Anne Frank was a girl just like any other in her time, with all the worries, fears, dreams and wishes. She had to perish, because she belonged to another race and didn't fit into the system.

### *Measure 1:*

The start of a true story.

### *Measure 15:*

Anne Frank the Girl (Violin)

### *Measure 42:*

The carefree childhood.

Anne was reportedly lively and impulsive, and lived with her family (she had a sister, Margot) in Frankfurt.

### *Measure 108:*

The Nazis come to power in Germany. The SA marches through the streets—the first anti Semitic protests occur.

### *Measure 144:*

The Franks leave Germany and head towards Amsterdam.





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*Measure 151:*

German troops march into Holland—the Frank family take up their hiding place at the back of Prinsengracht 263.

*Measure 161:*

Anne Frank begins to write her diary in hiding.

Thoughts of a 13 year old.

*Measure 194:*

Betrayal is in the air.

*Measure 199:*

The betrayal: on the 4th August 1944 the family is arrested and deported. On the 3rd September 1944 the train heads to Auschwitz—selection—the family sees one another for the last time.

*Measure 234:*

Auschwitz

*Measure 242:*

In the turmoil of the final days of the war, Anne and Margot Frank perish.

*Measure 257:*

Anne Frank is dead!

*Measure 259:*

Otto Frank is the sole survivor of the family.

*Measure 268:*

The diaries are handed over to him and he publishes them.

*Measure 273:*

Anne Frank!

Beware the beginnings!

**Nostradamus**

Nostradamus was one of humankind's greatest prophets. Many of his coded prophecies proved true. He lived at the time of the inquisition, and his predictions and medical therapies as a physician made him face consequences from the church. After he had been forced to flee several times and had lost his family to the plague, he devoted himself to clairvoyance. He wrote down many events in history in

coded predictions. Although there is probably more than one possible way of interpretation, in our world, Nostradamus is still considered to be a unique personality. Whether he is degraded to a charlatan or turned into a myth, he surely has moved humankind with his prophecies. Otto M. Schwarz, soundtrack composer since 2001, wrote a cinematographic work about this man, who is probably the best-known prophet of the last 1000 years.

#### *Measure 1:*

Nostradamus' theme

#### *Measure 5:*

In his academic years, Nostradamus opposes the church and is forced to flee. He becomes a physician and develops therapies that are condemned as witchcraft.

#### *Measure 29:*

Nostradamus works as a physician - the plague breaks out in France - dead people everywhere - dark night - plague fires burning.

#### *Measure 48:*

Nostradamus' happy years - he studies several forbidden works with one of his patrons and meets his first love. He starts a family. Years later he devotes himself to clairvoyance.

#### *Measure 102:*

In one of his visions, he foresees the death of the French king during a tournament.

#### *Measure 143:*

The king is dead.

#### *Measure 158:*

In a vision, he predicts the assumption of power by the Nazis in Germany.

#### *Measure 165:*

The Nazis spread horror and war all over Europe.

#### *Measure 169:*

The intervention by the Allied Forces.

#### *Measure 193:*

3797 - Nostradamus has predicted the end

of the world. However, humankind can be saved in spaceships.

*Measure 197:*

The spaceships leave earth.

*Measure 229:*

The earth explodes.

*Measure 233:*

The planet is dead - dust and debris give way to the dark night in slow motion.

*Measure 237:*

The heart of the earth stops beating, but humankind will survive.

## **Roller Coaster - A Symphonic Sketch**

Otto M. Schwarz composes not only for symphonic bands, but has written the soundtracks for many films. In this piece, he describes a ride on a roller coaster. At the beginning, the cars are pulled up by a chain. High above the ground the ride begins with all the well-known variations like steep downhill slides and loops,

accompanied by the screams of the passengers. Towards the end of the piece, the ride becomes faster and faster, and then comes the end. Roller Coaster must be considered as a musical sketch, and is especially suited as an encore for your concerts. Get in! Let the ride begin

## **Dragon Fight**

At the best viewpoint over the Alps of Liechtenstein, the village of Gufлина is situated. Underneath the overhanging ledge, there is said to have been a cave in the mountain. In it lived a terrible dragon that was on the rampage on the surrounding meadows, spreading fear and terror among the population. At the same time there lived a giant man up in Gufлина, who had the strength of twelve normal men. The farmers implored him to help them in their distress. The giant ventured to fight the dragon and was lying in wait above the cave. When the dragon refused to appear, the giant threw stones into the entrance of the cave. They got into a fight, which the giant only just won with diffi-

culty. Since that day, people have lived in peace and prosperity.

The composer's thoughts about this piece:

*Measure 1:*

It is night.

Once upon a time, there lived a vicious dragon in Gullina.

*Measures 13-20:*

The dragon approaches; it's on the hunt.

*Measure 21:*

It is spreading fear and terror.

*Measure 69:*

The day after. Everything is quiet again and the beauty of the region (mountains and valleys) becomes visible.

*Measure 120:*

"The giant of Gullina" - he's living on his own.

The farmers ask him to release them from the dragon.

*Measure 124:*

The giant is on his way to the dragon cave.

*Measure 134:*

When the dragon does not appear, the giant throws stones into the cave to irritate it.

*Measure 145:*

As if it had been stung, the dragon storms out of its cave.

*Measure 146:*

The giant rolls a stone forward and...

*Measure 150:*

... hits the head of the dragon. The fight starts.

*Measure 186:*

Heavily hurt, the dragon howls out and stumbles, but he's not yet beaten.

*Measures 199-206:*

With his last ounce of strength, the giant breaks the dragon's neck (death throes).

*Measure 207:*

The dragon collapses - it's dead.

*Measure 213:*

Peace is restored - people carry the heavily injured giant down to the valley to nurse him back to health.

*Measure 221:*

Ever since that day, peace and joy of living have prevailed.

*Measure 225:*

And they lived happily ever after...

## **The White Tower**

The year is 1798, a dark and uncertain time in history. Thieves, robbers, and bandits prowl the land, wreaking havoc wherever they go, often escaping without consequence or penalty. But this was not the case with a well-planned assault on the German village Daaden, during which twenty sought-after criminals from Germany, France, and Holland were caught...

Times were so dangerous then that people dared not leave their houses during the night, and feared for their possessions and their very lives, during the day. The White Tower takes the musicians and audience to one particular night in 1798 when this ruthless terror was struck a lethal blow by the citizens' courage, the thieves' poor knowledge of the area, and the French military.

## THE PLAN

*Measure 1:*

It is night. A man on horseback (Adolf Weyers) draws nearer. He has spied on the village of Daaden and is on his way to report to the White Tower.

*Measure 9:*

Weyers catches sight of the White Tower. He arrives bustling and nervous for he is going to report that he has seen the treasure of banker Bruckmann.

*Measure 29:*

He enters - several shady characters are



inside, including Nikolaus Belz, the operator of the tower who suggested the daring plan.

*Measure 37:*

1798: uncertain times (main theme).

*Measure 79:*

Several gangs of robbers have banded together because the rewards are so great. They meet at a den of thieves near Neuß, and plot their attack.

*Measure 93:*

The thieves prepare...

*Measure 108:*

...and move out.

## THE ROBBERY

*Measure 1:*

Night time in the forest - the wind blows, branches creak.

*Measure 7:*

22 robbers approach Daaden.

*Measure 21:*

They come closer and closer. On their way to the village they capture and gag several charcoal burners who cross their path.

*Measure 29:*

The secret sign of the robbers.

*Measure 37:*

Daaden lies asleep in the distance.

*Measure 101:*

The robbers arrive and quietly defeat the guards.

*Measure 107:*

Silently they penetrate the inner city and see the imposing house that belongs to banker Bruckmann's step-father, Ax. It is thought the treasure is kept there.

*Measure 116:*

The robbers use a battering ram to break through the gate that leads up to the house.

*Measure 122:*

The noise wakes up the sleeping village! ALARM! Gun shots! Screaming! Hysteria! The robbers have broken through the gate, only to realise they have attacked the wrong house.

*Measure 128:*

A fight ensues. Houses are ransacked and the militia quickly assembles.

*Measure 142:*

The village's resistance grows stronger by the minute.

*Measure 158:*

The tides of power begin to shift until...

*Measure 174:*

...the robbers are ordered to retreat by their commander, Adolf Weyers. Laden with heavy bounty they attempt to flee the village and head for the mountains.

ON THE RUN - CAPTURE

*Measure 1:*

The morning after - mist rises from the valley.

*Measure 25:*

The French cavalry arrives to help.

*Measure 31:*

The robbers are terrified when they realise they have ridden in a circle.

*Measure 35:*

They flee.

*Measure 51:*

Another fight break outs.

*Measure 79:*

Farmers, the militia, and the French cavalry outnumber the robbers...

*Measure 95:*

...but the robbers do not give up and start shooting, round after round.

*Measure 113:*

The last shot is fired as the robbers are captured and sentenced.

*Measure 121:*

Justice is finally served.



Bratislava Symphony Orchestra conducted by David Hernando Rico

# OTTO M. SCHWARZ

## SYMPHONIC DIMENSIONS

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- 1 AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS 10:29
- 2 THE STORY OF ANNE FRANK violin soloist: Vladimír Harvan 13:30
- 3 NOSTRADAMUS 12:40
- 4 ROLLER COASTER 03:15
- 5 DRAGON FIGHT 10:24
- 6 THE WHITE TOWER, I. THE PLAN 05:51
- 7 THE WHITE TOWER, II. THE ROBBERY 06:25
- 8 THE WHITE TOWER, III. ON THE RUN - CAPTURE 07:25

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Orchestration: Juan Manuel Abrás

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