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BRUCKNER: SYMPHONY NO.4, 'ROMANTIC', Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Manfred

Honeck/Reference Recordings SACD FR-713SACD Bruckner's avowedly religious sympathies are less in evidence in his Symphony No. 4 in E-flat major ("Romantic"). This secular, pantheistic symphony is perhaps his most popular work, and The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and their Music Director Manfred Honeck have – in a very short space of time – become one of the most exciting teams in the modern classical world, with recordings that combine superlative musicianship with unparalleled recording quality (courtesy of Reference Recordings). And so (as with the previous Dvořák/Janaček coupling) it again proves here, as we are offered a striking new interpretation of this imperishable masterpiece, The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and Honeck present the 1878/80 version. The version that was utilised for the symphony's premiere in 1881.

Barry Forshaw/CD Choice UK