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## The Sydney Symphony's two-year Mahler cycle comes to a triumphant finish

*"It was a privilege to have shared the journey with them." Murray Black, The Australian*

With 33 performances, 42 hours of music and over 74,000 attendees, the Sydney Symphony's two-year Mahler cycle has come to a resounding close following last week's thrilling performances of Mahler's Symphony No.2.

Beginning in 2010 to mark the 150th anniversary of the birth of Mahler and ending in 2011 when the world marked the centenary of the composer's death, the Cycle saw the orchestra and Principal Conductor Vladimir Ashkenazy perform all 10 of Mahler's symphonies plus a selection of his orchestral songs including 'Song of the Earth.'

More than 74,000 people attended one or more of the Mahler performances, with one Sydney Symphony audience member attending a record 13 performances.

Of the 74,000 attendees, nearly 1,000 came from overseas and 662 attendees came from interstate.

According to Sydney Symphony Managing Director Rory Jeffes, although the Cycle is over, audiences can still relive the performances through the orchestra's Mahler Odyssey recordings.

"This is the first Mahler cycle that Vladimir Ashkenazy has recorded and it's a powerful statement of the outstanding quality of the orchestra that he chose to undertake this landmark project with the Sydney Symphony. It has been an enormous undertaking but we are proud of what we have achieved, especially at a time when so many orchestras around the world are pulling back on artistic projects due to financial pressures. The Sydney Symphony will continue to lead the way in the scale and artistic ambition of projects we undertake and the release of the Mahler Odyssey CDs is certainly a significant occasion in the orchestra's history," said Jeffes.

A partner in the Mahler Odyssey, Telstra BigPond has streamed live and on-demand five of the Mahler concerts. Audiences can watch performances of Symphonies No.2, 6 and 9 at [www.sydneyphilharmonics.com/mahler](http://www.sydneyphilharmonics.com/mahler)

The Mahler Odyssey CDs, all recorded live in performance at the Sydney Opera House, are available from [www.sydneyphilharmonics.com/mahler](http://www.sydneyphilharmonics.com/mahler)

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