

Monday 13 December 2010

Sydney Symphony releases its next Mahler cycle recordings: Symphony No.5 & Song of the Earth

The Sydney Symphony has today released the next instalment in its Mahler cycle recordings project – Symphony No.5 and *Song of the Earth* – recorded live in May 2010 at the Sydney Opera House.

The recordings form part of the Orchestra's two-year Mahler cycle (2010–2011) with Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor Vladimir Ashkenazy which sees the orchestra recording all Mahler's symphonies plus a significant selection of the composer's orchestral songs for release on the Sydney Symphony Live label.

MAHLER 5

The "Sydney Symphony took on Mahler 5 with flair and bravado." (*Sydney Morning Herald*)

Mahler's Fifth Symphony makes a tempestuous journey from the sombre tread of a funeral march to the exuberance and ecstasy of its finale.

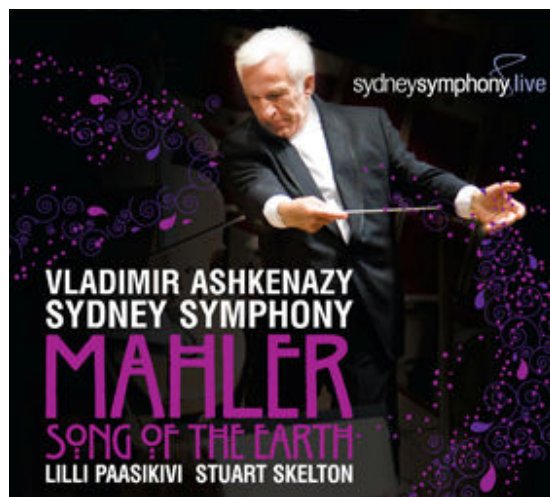
This is the work of a composer with his heart on his sleeve – of a man about to marry the most beautiful and intelligent woman in Vienna. And nowhere is that more obvious than in the musical of declaration of love at the centre of the symphony: the famous Adagietto, where strings and harp give voice to wordless passion.



SONG OF THE EARTH

Das Lied von der Erde is an elegy for voices and orchestra – indescribably sad and tinged with longing. It was the "symphony" that Mahler dare not assign a number, the creation of a man obsessed with his own mortality.

In this recording, the Sydney Symphony and Vladimir Ashkenazy are joined by mezzo-soprano Lilli Paasikivi and tenor Stuart Skelton. "One couldn't imagine a better pair of soloists," wrote Peter McCallum for the *The Sydney Morning Herald* after the concerts in May 2010. "Skelton with a lustrous, aspiring vigour, always pushing the energy outwards, and Paasikivi drawing the sound in with glowing expressiveness and radiant autumnal warmth."



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Vladimir Ashkenazy
Principal Conductor & Artistic Advisor

Two discs in the Mahler cycle were released earlier this year – Symphony No.1 and Symphony No.8, with Symphonies No.3 and No.4 due for release in early 2011.



Launched in 2006, the Sydney Symphony Live label is the only recording label wholly owned by an Australian orchestra. To date, 10 discs and one digital download have been released on the label, including the 2009 release of rare Rachmaninoff chamber works with Vladimir Ashkenazy on piano accompanying Sydney Symphony concertmaster Dene Olding.

The Mahler cycle recordings are available for purchase from www.sydneysymphony.com/shop

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