

Mendelssohn – The Five Symphonies

Landmark release from TSO and Sebastian Lang-Lessing



There are few symphonies that are more loved and admired than those of Mendelssohn. Now, in an **Australian first**, the **Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra** conducted by **Sebastian Lang-Lessing** has recorded the **complete cycle** of all five masterpieces. **Three years in the making**, the **ambitious project** features scintillating performances of the **'Italian'** Symphony No 4 and the mighty **'Reformation'** Symphony No 5, along with the rarely heard **'Lobgesang'** Symphony No 2, complete with massed chorus and vocal soloists. The First Symphony, composed when Mendelssohn was just 15, is a work of astonishing maturity for one so young, but perhaps the highlight of the boxed set is the **'Scottish'** Symphony No 3, whose recording sessions were filmed for a **bonus DVD**. 'Mendelssohn Down Under' features Sebastian Lang-Lessing and members of the TSO discussing the epic musical journey that led to the completion of the cycle earlier this year – a **landmark achievement in the history of Australian recorded music**. A bonus feature on the DVD includes Lang-Lessing introducing the Third Symphony in front of a live audience.

Track Listing

All works by Felix Mendelssohn 1809-1847

DVD

'Mendelssohn Down Under'

A journey inside Mendelssohn's Scottish symphony with Chief Conductor Sebastian Lang-Lessing, offering a conductor's-eye view of the recording process and revealing the breadth and depth of the composer's genius.

CD 1

Symphony No. 1 in C minor
Symphony No. 5 in D major, 'Reformation'

CD 2

Symphony No. 2 in B-flat major,
'Lobgesang' (Song of Praise)
 Sara Macliver, Elena Xanthoudakis *sopranos*
 Jaewoo Kim *tenor*, TSO Chorus, Sydney
 Philharmonia Chamber Singers

CD 3

Symphony No. 3 in A minor, 'Scottish'
Symphony No. 4 in A major, 'Italian'

A leader in music of the Classical and early Romantic periods, the **Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra** enjoys a high profile nationally and internationally through its world-wide broadcasts and award-winning recordings. The TSO, resident in Hobart's Federation Concert Hall, has a full complement of 47 musicians. Declared an official Tasmanian Icon in 1998, the TSO enjoys a high level of popular support and presents regular performances in Hobart, Launceston and across the state, alongside interstate and international tours. German-born **Sebastian Lang-Lessing** has been the TSO's Chief Conductor and Artistic Director since 2004. Since being awarded the Ferenc Fricsay Prize at the age of 24, he performs at most of the world's major opera houses as well as maintaining a busy schedule of orchestral and recording engagements.

CD available 2 October 2009