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Edvard Grieg: Complete Symphonic Works

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Tom Erik Lie, baritone
Herbert Schuch, piano
WDR Sinfonieorchester
Eivind Aadland, conductor

“Eivind Aadland ... brings performances of astonishing poise, intrepid character and enormous conviction ...” (Gramophone)

“The symphony performance under Eivind Aadland has everything you would hope for: lots of energy and excitement, with a very fine, well-prepared orchestra.” (American Record Guide)

„Kein Zweifel mit dieser CD setzt audite seinem Grieg-Zyklus die Krone auf.” (Pizzicato)
“The symphony performance under Eivind Aadland has everything you would hope for: lots of energy and excitement, with a very fine, well-prepared orchestra.” (American Record Guide)

The complete edition of Edvard Grieg’s symphonic works with the WDR Symphony Orchestra under Eivind Aadland is now available as a 5 SACD boxed set.

This edition is especially convincing thanks to the authentic approach of the Norwegian Eivind Aadland. Vol. 1 and 2 are dedicated to the original orchestral works, whilst Vol. 3 contains a portion of the transcriptions of works that Grieg had originally composed for the piano. He then orchestrated them, having become a popular composer and conductor, in order to have more symphonic material at his disposal. Not infrequently, the transcriptions surpass the originals in terms of fullness and richness of colour. Vol. 4 of this series combines Grieg’s most popular work with his least known piece: whilst the Piano Concerto in A minor was the 25-year-old composer’s breakthrough to international fame, he had decided to withdraw his symphony, written only a few years previously. Yet every page of the score – despite overt influences of Schumann, Gade and Mendelssohn – convinces, thanks to Grieg’s youthful inspiration and superb invention. The concluding Vol. 5 of the complete recording of Edvard Grieg’s orchestral works reveals a less familiar side of the Norwegian national composer: as arranger of his own lyrical and patriotic songs, surrounded by elegiac and dance-like melodies.

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