

SIR MALCOLM ARNOLD

(1921–2006)

COMPLETE SYMPHONIES AND DANCES

'The effervescent nature of Malcolm Arnold's music is known and recognised the world over. Music knows no language barriers and his sense of fun requires no translation.' — *Andrew Penny*

Recorded in the presence of the composer, Andrew Penny's survey of the *Complete Symphonies* and *Dances* by Sir Malcolm Arnold has long been considered to contain benchmark recordings. Born in 1921, Sir Malcolm Arnold quickly established himself as a fluent and versatile composer, a gifted tunesmith and a brilliant orchestrator. His music is typically lucid in texture, rich in melody and clear in draughtsmanship yet there are frequent signs of a complex musical personality and dramatic tensions not far beneath the surface. The *Dances* are light-hearted, vivid and jaunty, yet the nine symphonies explore the composer's darker side, painting a picture of his private 'journey through hell' as he struggled with physical and mental health issues. They are masterworks which exert continued appeal and stimulate repeated listening.

DISC 1 Symphonies Nos. 1 and 2

DISC 2 Symphonies Nos. 3 and 4

DISC 3 Symphonies Nos. 5 and 6

DISC 4 Symphonies Nos. 7 and 8

DISC 5 Symphony No. 9 (includes composer interview)

DISC 6 Dances *

National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland
Queenstown Symphony Orchestra *
Andrew Penny

'Andrew Penny brings a clear-headed perception to Sir Malcolm Arnold's uniquely rewarding symphonic odyssey.'
— *Gramophone* on Arnold Complete Symphonies

'There is passionate drama here, darkness and light, seriousness and jocularly jostling with one another in a way that creates intriguing, musical dichotomies.' — *Gramophone* on Symphonies Nos. 5 and 6

'Andrew Penny and the Irish Orchestra are at the peak of their form.' — *BBC Music Magazine* on Symphonies Nos. 3 and 4

'The performances have the composer's imprimatur (he was present at the recording sessions) and can be recommended as an ideal representation of Arnold's spontaneous orchestral writing.' — *The Penguin Guide* on Dances

Booklet notes in English.

Compiled from the original music notes by Keith Anderson, Ates Orga, Piers Burton-Page with a new foreword by Andrew Penny.

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CENTENARY
EDITION

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6 DISCS

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