

These two hugely contrasting symphonies come from the opposite ends of Shostakovich's life and career. The *Second Symphony* was written to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Bolshevik October Revolution. Its advanced idiom of experimental textures and abstract effects can perhaps be best described as organised musical chaos. The *Fifteenth* was Shostakovich's last symphony and is filled with remarkable contrasts, from the rollicking quotes from Rossini's *William Tell Overture* and eerie references to Wagner's *Götterdämmerung* and *Tristan und Isolde*, to the last and perhaps most imaginative of the composer's symphonic passacaglias.

ROYAL
LIVERPOOL
PHILHARMONIC
ORCHESTRA

Dmitry
SHOSTAKOVICH
(1906-1975)



**Symphony No. 2 in B major
'To October', Op. 14 (1927)**

- 1 Largo –
- 2 Poco meno mosso – Allegro molto –
- 3 Chorus: 'To October' *

18:28

5:40

6:51

5:57

Symphony No. 15 in A major, Op. 141 (1972)

48:35

- 4 I. Allegretto
- 5 II. Adagio – Largo – Adagio
- 6 III. Allegretto
- 7 IV. Adagio – Allegretto – Adagio – Allegretto

8:08

17:25

3:49

19:13

Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Choir* and Orchestra
Vasily Petrenko

Recorded at the Philharmonic Hall, Liverpool, England on 14th June 2011 (tracks 1-3),
and on 26th and 27th October 2010 (tracks 4-7)

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www.naxos.com/libretti/572708.htm • Booklet notes: Richard Whitehouse

Cover photograph: Shostakovich welcomes the performers after a rehearsal of *Symphony No. 15*,
performed for the first time in West Berlin on 1st June, 1972 (photographer unknown)

NAXOS

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Playing Time
67:03



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