

The Bulgarian Emil Tabakov (b. 1947) follows in the footsteps of such musicians as Gustav Mahler and Richard Strauss, being active as both composer and conductor. Like Mahler, he prefers to write for large forces and now has nine symphonies to his name. Again like Mahler, Tabakov's symphonies explore the darker side of the human spirit in epic scores as austere as they are powerful. In the atmospheric and expansive Symphony No. 8 (2007–9), the dynamism suppressed in the first two movements is released in a cathartic discharge of energy in the finale. The ebullient *Five Bulgarian Dances* provide a complete contrast, taking Balkan folk-rhythms as the basis for their pile-driving vigour.



TOCC 0365

EMIL TABAKOV Complete Symphonies, Volume One

Five Bulgarian Dances (2011)

1	No. 1 <i>Moderato</i>	19:39
2	No. 2 <i>Presto</i>	3:10
3	No. 3 <i>Allegro molto</i>	3:32
4	No. 4 <i>Moderato</i>	3:09
5	No. 5 <i>Allegro molto</i>	3:33
		6:15

Symphony No. 8 (2007–9)

6	I <i>Largo</i>	43:24
7	II <i>Largo</i>	18:45
8	III <i>Presto</i>	11:03
		13:36

Bulgarian National Radio Symphony Orchestra

Emil Tabakov

TT 63:03

FIRST RECORDINGS

TOCCATA CLASSICS
16 Dalkeith Court,
Vincent Street,
London SW1P 4HH, UK

Tel: +44/0 207 821 5020
E-mail: info@toccataclassics.com

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