

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. Both the First Symphony and the Viola Concerto use small motifs to build up compelling symphonic structures, generating expansive, sometimes bleak, post-Shostakovichian landscapes that can explode with violence and energy.



TOCC 0410

EMIL TABAKOV Complete Symphonies, Volume Two

Symphony No. 1 (1981–82)

1 I	<i>Moderato</i>	34:56
2 II	<i>Largo</i>	11:42
3 III	<i>Largo – Presto</i>	8:51

Concerto for Viola and Orchestra (2007)

4 I	<i>Largo – Più mosso – Largo</i>	38:54
5 II	<i>Largo</i>	17:40
6 III	<i>Presto</i>	10:43

Alexander Zemtsov, viola **4–6**

TT 73:50

Bulgarian National Radio Symphony Orchestra

FIRST RECORDINGS

Emil Tabakov, conductor



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