

The music of the Bulgarian composer-conductor Emil Tabakov (b. 1947) explores the darker side of the human spirit in epic scores as austere as they are powerful. His mighty Fifth Symphony, a work almost an hour in length, is obsessive and violent, with the two outer movements, wild kaleidoscopes of whirling colours and driving energy, framing a tragic slow movement and a sardonic march. The much earlier Double-Bass Concerto, which sits downstream from Shostakovich, shows the same grim sense of humour in the teeth of the dancing indifference of fate.



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CLASSICS

TOCC 0530

EMIL TABAKOV Complete Symphonies, Volume Four

Concerto for Double Bass and Orchestra (1975)

- 1 I Allegro
- 2 II Lento
- 3 III Vivace

20:42

6:54

6:53

6:55

Symphony No. 5 (2000)

- 4 I *Spirituoso*
- 5 II *Largo*
- 6 III *Allegro moderato*
- 7 IV *Finale: Andante*

54:00

17:51

9:44

10:25

16:00

TT 74:43

Entcho Radoukanov, double bass 1–3

FIRST RECORDINGS

Symphony Orchestra of Bulgarian National Radio

Emil Tabakov, conductor

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