

Classic fM, June 2009



**Rachmaninov**  
**Symphony No.2; Vocalise**



*Singapore Symphony Orchestra/Lan Shui*

Compared to what Russian orchestras like to do with Rachmaninov's ecstatically lyrical Second Symphony, this is a medium-voltage performance, but even so it has much going for it. The Singapore strings' *portamento* sliding, though a touch overdone, is in line with the likeable warmth of the playing; and you won't hear the slow movement's rapturous clarinet solo delivered more beautifully than here. Conductor Lan Shui's main tempo for the finale is a notch slow, but elsewhere his way with the music's flow is very sure; and the short *Vocalise* is a winsome bonus.

Superbly detailed and resonant SACD sound, too. **MH**

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