

Press Invitation

Laurence Equilbey and Insula Orchestra champion the symphonic repertoire of Emilie Mayer “**the feminine Beethoven**” performing and recording her 1st Symphony for Warners in live concerts in Paris on 27 & 28 February

Tuesday 27 February 2024, 20:00
Wednesday 28 February 2024, 19:30
La Seine Musicale, Boulogne-Billancourt

Schubert *Overture from Des Teufels Lustschloss*
Schubert *Symphony No.4 'Tragic'*
Mayer *Symphony No.1*

Laurence Equilbey conductor

After covering the complete symphonic works of French composer Louise Farrenc, captured in a celebrated recording of her complete symphonies on the Warner label, Laurence Equilbey and Insula orchestra are again setting out to bring more unjustly neglected works by female composers into the public eye.

Over the next seasons they will be exploring the symphonies of 19th-Century female composer Emilie Mayer (1812-1883), with plans to record the major part of her work. Beginning on **27 and 28 February 2024**, Insula will record her *Symphony No. 1* with an impressive catalogue who has often been nicknamed “the feminine Beethoven”.

Born in Friedland, northern Germany, Mayer composed eight symphonies. The first, written in 1847 is built in a highly Romantic style. She began her musical education early, enrolling in piano classes with organist Carl Heinrich Ernst Driver. Her mother died when she was 2 and her father committed suicide when she was 28, she decided to travel to Stettin to pursue studies in composition under the tutelage of Carl Loewe, who was a close contemporary of Schumann, Weber, Mendelssohn, and other prolific composers. Eight years later, after her first two symphonies debuted, Mayer moved to Berlin where she was held in high regard by the musical establishment of her time and appointed co-director of the Opera Academy in Berlin. Royalty frequently attended Mayer's concerts and awarded her gold medals for her music and other artistic endeavours. Over her career, Mayer composed eight symphonies, seven symphonic overtures, eight violin sonatas, twelve cello sonatas, seven string quartets, and six piano trios.