

PERFECTION IN SPOHR'S THIRD SYMPHONY

Amsterdam Concert Report by Jan C. Roosendaal

DURING the months July and August there is in Amsterdam the Summer Festival which resembles in many ways the British Promenade Concerts. All concerts are given in the Concertgebouw, and on August 25th 1995, the Philharmonic Orchestra of Noord-Holland, which has its residence in Haarlem, under its chief conductor Lucas Vis, gave a concert which, after works by Rossini, Bruch and Sibelius, was concluded by the Third Symphony of Louis Spohr.

For many Spohr lovers this may be the favourite symphony; it is, anyway, one of my favourites so one is anxiously hoping for a good performance. Well, all I can say, is that the performance was as fine as one could have hoped for, maybe one could even say that it was perfect! Tempi were dead right, all details got full attention and the orchestra gave this wonderful symphony everything it deserves.

From the beginning until the end it was clear that the conductor had a great affection for this work, so one could enjoy every bar of it. In the coda of the last movement, in which the repeat was obeyed, the brass section, in particular the trumpets, was given every chance, which gave the symphony a festive, almost triumphant ending. The audience, presumably for the most part unfamiliar with the symphony, reacted very enthusiastically and made the conductor come back many times. I think this performance surpassed every available recording and I will keep it in my mind as a very dear treasure.