

Gabriel Feltz Dirigent
PRESSESTIMMEN | KONZERTE

Belgrade Philharmonic Orchestra

Inaugurationskonzert – Belgrade Philharmonic Orchestra – September 2017

As for Richard Strauss' An Alpine Symphony, conductor Gabriel Feltz managed to deliver the composition that comprises as many as 22 scenes of nature in a single movement as one logical whole. The brass section functioned very well and we could single out the fanfare episode as especially striking, while other scenes in which the composer strived to depict various natural phenomena were also very good. Similarly to the performance of Beethoven's symphony, the passage played by woodwinds also functioned very well. Despite an occasional error in reading the score, to which we will not pay much attention, the Belgrade Philharmonic Orchestra sounded well-rehearsed and enthusiastic. The strings played with an ease of movement and a fine roundness of tones, which this orchestra sometimes lacks. Most importantly, Gabriel Feltz's interpretation showed no divergence from the typical norms that are associated with this composition, which many conductors state as their favourite, likely due to the multitude of sound effects it includes. Nevertheless, Feltz succeeded in delivering some of the naturalistic scenes as logical parts of the whole, showing that he was very familiar with the structure of the piece that shouldn't be understood as the retelling of events from the nature, although such interpretations are not uncommon.

Overall, quite a good interpretation of Beethoven's Pastoral Symphony and a memorable performance of Richard Strauss' An Alpine Symphony – I daresay after all that the new season of the Belgrade Philharmonic Orchestra under the new Chief Conductor Gabriel Feltz started off momentarily, hopefully with many more concerts like this to follow.

Radio Belgrade, 1. Oktober 2017, Srdjan Teparic

The Belgrade Philharmonic Orchestra's first concert of the new season (Kolarac, 29 September), under the new Chief Conductor Gabriel Feltz, ended with five-minute ovations. The Five Elements season was opened by the concert from the Earth series, and the programme included Beethoven's Pastoral and Strauss' Alpine Symphonies. In the packed Kolarac Concert Hall, the orchestra's season formally commenced with the performance of the Serbian national anthem Bože pravde. It was followed by the repertoire that Gabriel Feltz traditionally conducts when he is inaugurated as Chief Conductor in an orchestra. The audience had an opportunity to hear how two masters of the musical art bow to the nature. Beethoven was nature's great admirer, and his Pastoral Symphony testifies to this. Maestro Feltz and the orchestra painted beautiful images of the nature that parade one after another. Strauss' grandiose piece in the second part of the concert brought together 112 musicians, not only on the stage but on the gallery, as well, where the sounds of the nature were emulated by wind instruments. Vigorously directed by the Chief Conductor, the Belgrade Philharmonic Orchestra led the audience to mountain climbing on the Alps - an unforgettable experience.

The audience breathlessly followed this magnificent voyage, which ended with a sustained applause. Maestro Feltz was overjoyed with the orchestra's performance of Strauss' masterpiece, which had originally influenced his decision to pursue a conductor's career. The Belgrade Philharmonic musicians are proud of such a monumental launch of the season, as witnessed by the multitude of posts in social networks.

B92.net, 1. Oktober 2017