

# French pianist's Schumann spellbinding

There was something for everyone in this CSO Masterworks Series concert which featured a stunning performance of Schumann's Piano Concerto in A minor.

Hailed as a rising star, French-born Emmanuel Despax excelled, living up to the accolades of rapturous superlatives that audiences and reviewers around the world have showered upon him. From the initial fierce descending attack by the piano in the first movement Despax breathed new life into this popular work. His flawless technique, sense of precision in working with the orchestra and his ability to project an unassuming strength of emotion created a spellbinding performance.

## REVIEW

Christchurch Symphony Orchestra conducted by Tom Woods with soloist Emmanuel Despax (piano). Christchurch Town Hall Auditorium, May 2. Reviewed by Graeme Wallis.

Based on the high quality of this concert, one can only look forward to the remaining three presentations in the CSO Masterworks Series with enthusiastic anticipation.