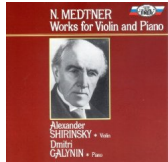


Nikolai Medtner - Works for Violin and Piano (1993)

Written by bluesever

Tuesday, 22 September 2015 16:14 -

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Disc 1 *Violin Sonata No.1 in B minor, Op.21: I. Canzona. Canterellando, con fluidezza Violin Sonata No.1 in B minor, Op.21: II. Danza. Allegro scherzando Violin Sonata No.1 in B minor, Op.21: III. Ditrambo. Festivamente Violin Sonata No.2 in G major, Op.44: I. Introduzione, Maestoso Violin Sonata No.2 in G major, Op.44: II. Cadenza I, Cadenza II; III. Finale: Rondo Nocturne No.1 in D minor, Op.16: Andante con moto, sempre, leggero Nocturne No.2 in G minor, Op.16: Largamente Nocturne No.3 in C minor, Op.16: Moderato* Disc 2 *Violin Sonata No.3 in E minor, Op.57, 'Epic': I. Introduzione Violin Sonata No.3 in E minor, Op.57, 'Epic': II. Scherzo Violin Sonata No.3 in E minor, Op.57, 'Epic': III. Andante con moto; IV. Finale Canzona No.1 in C major, Op.43: Andantino con motorussian composer, Danza No.1 in C major, Op.43: Allegro non troppi, capriccioso Canzona No.2 in B minor, Op.43: Andantino cantabile Danza No.2 in B minor, Op.43: Allegro*
Alexander Shirinsky (violin) Dmitri Galynin (piano) Recorded in Moscow in 1992

After decades of neglect, it seems that Nikolai Medtner's music is finally beginning to receive some of the attention it deserves. Possibly unique amongst 20th century composers, every work composed by Nikolai Medtner includes his own instrument – the piano. Whilst his output isn't large, in comparison with some who lived into their seventies, Medtner's is a rich catalogue. It includes fourteen Piano Sonatas – some of them very large pieces full of Beethovenian turmoil and stress. There are also many miniatures for the instrument. Especially remembered are the various series of Skazki, or Fairy Tales; not to mention three magnificent Concertos, three Violin Sonatas, a Piano Quintet and 108 songs. Like the songs of his lifelong friend Rachmaninov, Medtner's songs are glorious settings of various poets. Again like his compatriot, these pieces should be given by our young singers looking for interesting vocal repertoire. Kilpinen's songs are as fine and should also be investigated. In 1990 the BBC broadcast all Medtner's works for violin and piano with that great violinist Manoug Parikian, accompanied by one of Medtner's best interpreters, Hamish Milne. Even this exposure failed to encourage public performances and these works have never caught on as repertoire pieces, probably because they don't conform to any established form. ---Bob Briggs, musicweb-international.com

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