Anna Netrebko – Russian Album (2007)

01. Iolanta Op.69 - "Atchevo eta prezhde ne znala"
02. Zdes' khorosho, Op.21, No.7 - Arranged by Michael Rot
03. Ne poy, krasavitsa, pri mne, Op.4, No.4 - Orchestrated by Nikolai (?) Saveliev
04. The Tale of Tsar Saltan / Act 2 - "Ty, tsarevich, moy spasitel"
05. The Snow Maiden - Opera in four Acts with a Prologue / Prologue - "Au, au - Akh, bednaya Snegurochka, dikarka - S podruzhkami po yagodu khodit"
06. The Snow Maiden - Opera in four Acts with a Prologue / Act 4 - "Velikiy car¿! Sprosi menya sto raz"
07. The Tsar's Bride - original version / Act 4 - Scene & Aria :Ivan Sergeich, khochesh'"
08. Pimpinella, Op.38 No.6 - Arranged by Elena Firsova
09. A Life for the Tsar - Ivan Susanin (Gorodetsky) / Act 1 - V pole, pole, cistoye glyazu
10. War and Peace, Op.91 - original version - "Chuda, kak harasha ana"
11. Francesca da Rimini op.25 - "O ne rydai, mai Paolo"
12. Eugene Onegin, Op.24 / Act 1 - Letter scene. "Puskai pogibnu ya, no prezde"

Orchestra of the Mariinsky Theatre,
Valery Gergiev – director

This is a collection of well-to-lesser-known Russian arias by composers from Glinka to Prokofiev, with stops along the way for Tchaikovsky, Rimsky-Korsakov, and Rachmaninov. The lovely Anna Netrebko remains a glamorous singer, pure of voice, with always-musical phrasing and some exquisitely high soft singing. Particularly fine are a little-known Tchaikovsky Romance with castanets, bassoon, and piccolo adding color; the vivid, Italianate selection from Glinka's A Life for the Tsar; two lyrical Rachmaninov songs (here scored for orchestra); and the Letter Scene from Eugene Onegin, which is delivered with the drama of a true singing actress. Otherwise, many of the arias here are slow and have a certain sameness about them. Netrebko sometimes just sings instead of getting inside them. Netrebko's Italian output so far has been far more exciting, but it's great to have this Russian repertoire sung so beautifully on CD.

--Robert Levine, amazon.com

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