Modest Mussorgsky - St. Johns Night on the Bare Mountain, Khovanshchina, ... (1997)

1 - St. Johns Night on the Bare Mountain 2 - Khovanshchina, Prelude 3 - Khovanshchina, Aria of Shaklovity 4 - Khovanshchina, The Departure of Prince Golizyn play 5 - Khovanshchina, Aria of Maria 6 - Khovanshchina, Dance of the Persian Slave Girls 7 - Scherzo in B-flat Major
play
8 - Intermezzo Symphonique in modo classico 9 - Festive March from 'Mlada'
Anatoli Kotcherga - Bass-Baritone Mariana Tarasova - Mezzo-Soprano Rundkunkchor Berlin Südtiroler Kinderchor Berliner Philharmoniker Claudio Abbado – Conductor

The cd is unique for including Mussorgsky's rarely-performed independent orchestral pieces: Intermezzo in modo classico, The Capture of Kars and the Scherzo. The conductor, Claudio Abbado, takes advantage of the sensitive modern digital sound to produce a record full of inspiration. The Berliner Philharmoniker responds to him terrifically. Kotcherga, older than he was is Abbado's dvd of Khovanshchina, sings Shaklovity's aria like a Dosifey or a Boris, and his Chernobog is thrilling. Tarasova has a real depth of tone which great Marfas such as Semtschuk and Cossotto lacked. She is described as a mezzo but both here and in Boris Godunov (where she played the innkeeper) she sounds like a contralto. The choir here sings with better diction than in Abbado's Khovanshchina dvd. The only problem is the packing: There's no mention of who orchestrated the excerpts from Khovanshchina. (Shostakovich, I guess) On the whole, this is a perfect example of Mussorgsky's art (and Abbado's).
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