## Sergei Prokofiev - The Tale of the Stone Flower, Op. 118 (2005)



Prologue 1 The Mistress of the Copper Mountain 4:14 2 Danilo and his work 2:38 Act I Scene 1

- 3 Danilo in search of the stone flower 2:17 4 Danilo meets his fellow villagers 2:06 5 Scene and duet of Katerina and Danilo 5:14 6 Interlude I. Severyan and the workers 3:13 Scene 2
- 7 Round dance 2:43 8 Katerina bids farewell to her friends 2:14 9 Maiden's dance 4:21 10 Danilo's dance 1:25 11 Unmarried men's dance 1:34 12 Severyan's arrival 3:30 14 Scene of Katerina and Danilo 2:21 15 Danilo's thoughts 3:03

Scene 3

- 16 Danilo enticed away by the Mistress of the Copper Mountain 5:22

  Act II Scene 4
- 17 The Mistress shows Danilo the treasures of the earth 2:04 18 Duet of the Mistress and Danilo (first temptation) 5:00 19 Scene and Waltz of the Diamonds (second temptation) 5:24 20 Dance of the Russian precious stones (third temptation) 4:01 21 Waltz 4:13 22 Danilo's monologue and the Mistress's reply 1:56 23 The Mistress shows Danilo the stone flower 2:15 24 Severyan and the workers; the Mistress's warning 3:02 Scene 5
- 25 Scene and Katerina's dance (thinking of Danilo) 3:46 26 Severyan's arrival 1:59 27 'Where are you, sweet Danilo?' 1:26 28 The appearance of the Mistress and Katerina's joy 2:20

Act III Scene 6

- 29 Ural Rhapsody 8:40 30 Interlude II 7:03 31 Russian dance 4:13 Scene 7
- 32 Gypsy dance 3:14 33 Severyan's dance 1:45 34 Solo of the gypsy girl and Coda 3:54 35 Katerina's appearance and Severyan's rage 2:06 36 The appearance of the Mistress and Scene of Severyan transfixed 1:04 37 Severyan follows the Mistress 2:05 38 Severyan's death 2:01

Act IV Scene 8

39 Katerina sits by the fire and yearns for Danilo 1:42 40 Scene and Katerina's dance with the skipping fire-spirit 3:06 41 Katerina follows the fire-spirit 1:33

Scene 9

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42 Katerina's dialogue with the Mistress 3:28 43 Danilo turned to stone 3:26 44 The joy of Katerina and Danilo's reunion (Adagio) 4:12 45 The Mistress presents gifts to Katerina and Danilo 3:07 46 Epilogue 1:29

A ballet in four acts and nine scenes; scenario by Mira Mendelson and Leonid Lavrovsky from the book The Malachite Box by Pavel Bazhov Danila - Aleksandr Gulyaev Katerina - Anna Polikarpova Queen of the Copper Mountain - Tatiana Terekhova Severyan, a Bailiff - Genady Babanin Fire-fairy - Irina Chistyakova, Corps and Artists of the Kirov Ballet from the Mariinsky Theatre, St. Petersburg The Mariinsky Theatre Orchestra Yuri Grigorovich - choreography Alexandre Viliumanis – conductor

Prokofiev's last ballet, The Stone Flower, is among the composer's final works. It's an engaging piece, hardly more challenging in expressive language than a Tchaikovsky ballet. It is very tuneful, with twenty or more attractive melodies, many recycled from earlier Prokofiev works: the festive No. 7, Round Dance, is borrowed from the two-part film score for Ivan the Terrible; Nos. 14, Katerina and Danilo, and 19, Waltz of the Diamonds, are sourced in Music for Children, for piano, Op. 65, (Nos. 11 and 6, respectively). Prokofiev's orchestration is splashy and colorful, a sense of the exotic often permeating the music: there are Russian and Gypsy dance numbers, and much else with a folkish, often Eastern-flavored character that befits the fairy tale-like plot of the ballet. --- Robert Cummings, Rovi

First performed at the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow in 1954, this ballet draws on the rich heritage of Russian folklore to tell the tale of the young stonemason Danila, who must choose between his village sweetheart Katerina and a magical temptress. It is based on fairy tales from the Urals collected by Pavel Bazhov and set in the middle of the 19th century.

Sergei Prokofiev was suffering under the oppression and constant mischief of Stalin and his henchmen for long and had to conform to the musical demands of the state in order to stage his new ballet. In Stone Flower you can feel Prokofiev's resignation after the hard struggle with the political situation, but nevertheless, he hasn't lost his brilliance and the music of his last ballet still is full of catchy tunes and joyousness.

However, with the completion of his composition, it took four years before it received its

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premiere in Moscow and was not a great success at all. It was only three years later with the choreography of Yuri Grigorovich that Prokofiev's Stone Flower finally come to a glorious resurrection. The young choreographer simplified the story and focussed on nothing but the dance. The ballet became his first major success. --- naxos.com

Kamienny Kwiat to wspaniały balet Sergiusza Prokofiewa do którego libretto napisali L. Ławrowski i M. Mendelssohn na podstawie bajki P. Bażowa Baśń o kamiennym kwiecie. Balet miał swoją premierę w 1954 roku w moskiewskim Teatrze Bolszoj. Niestety nie odniósł on sukcesu, dopiero 3 lata później powrót spektaklu w choreografii Jurija Grigorowicza okazał się ogromnym wydarzeniem w Teatrze Kirowa. ---empik.com

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