

Dmitri Shostakovich – Symphony No.15 (Kondrashin) [1972]

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1. *Allegretto* 2. *Adagio - Largo (attacca)* 3. *Allegretto* 4. *Adagio – Allegretto*
Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra Kirill Kondrashin, conductor September 14, 1972

This 1972 live concert recording represents Kirill Kondrashin's last appearance with the Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra, for what that bit of information is worth. He sets a scorching tempo in the first movement, with the players frantically scrambling to keep up. Fortunately, this symphony consists primarily of slow music, otherwise Kondrashin's lack of sensitivity for music of a composer he otherwise interpreted masterfully would be shocking. For the most part the playing is very good, with some occasional flubs from the brass (check out the end of the slow movement), but it has to be said that on this outing the Moscow strings sound thin and edgy, the brass crude, the percussion timid.

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