

NEW RELEASE



Symphony no. 14

Gordan Nikolić / Netherlands Chamber Orchestra

CLASSICAL

CC72654 - SACD hybrid

0608917265422

Challenge Classics

release dates:

Benelux: 17/10/2014

Germany: 24/10/2014

Other: 03/11/2014

Composers:

Dmitri Shostakovich

Artists:

The Netherlands Chamber Orchestra

Gal James

Thomas Oliemans

Description:

Gordan Nikolić has been the musical director, the concertmaster and the face of the Netherlands Chamber Orchestra since 2004. Nikolić is an energetic master violinist; as the musical director, he puts across what moves him in the music he plays. He studied at the Academy of Music in Basle with the well-known French violinist and conductor Jean-Jacques Kantorow. He has steeped himself in Baroque music, but also works with contemporary composers such as Lutoslawski and Kurtág. He has performed with numerous orchestras in Europe, and the posts he has held include concertmaster of the London Symphony Orchestra, professor at the Royal College of Music and the Guildhall School of Music and lecturer at the Rotterdam Conservatorium.

'I become more and more convinced that words are more effective than music. When I combine music with words, it is more difficult to misunderstand my intentions.' A comment by Dmitri Shostakovich in reference to two symphonies he composed that make use of texts. They are Symphony No. 13, composed in 1962 and Symphony No. 14, composed in 1969.

For No. 13, Shostakovich used five poems of the then young avant-garde poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko. The title he gave to his poetic monument for the Russian Jews who had been killed by the German occupying forces at Babi Yar became the name of Symphony No. 13: Babi Yar.

Symphony No. 14 is in fact part of a pair with No. 13, but No. 14 is untitled. In both symphonies, Shostakovich chose the form of a song cycle. Yet they exhibit great differences. No. 13 was written for a large orchestra, a large all-male choir and a bass soloist. In No. 14 he returned to the heart of the symphonic ensemble, the string orchestra. Supplemented with percussion, it accompanies and frames a soprano and a bass. In its expressiveness, this symphony comes close to the poignancy and rarefaction of the fifteen string quartets Shostakovich gave us.

He drew his texts from the world literature. Two poems by the Spaniard Federico Garcia Lorca, six by Frenchman Guillaume Apollinaire, two from the German Rainer Maria Rilke and one poem of Russian origin, by Wilhelm Küchelbecker. On first sight, a black thread of Death runs throughout the entire cycle; in other words, human mortality. The work starts with a 'De profundis' (Out of the depths I cry unto thee, O God), as if this symphony comprises a requiem.

USP:

A dramatic and exciting account of Shostakovich's last but one symphony

A live recording with astonishing performances by the soloists

Poems are sung in the original Russian version

Nikolic brings a totally Slavic drive to the score

Symphony no.14 is recognized as one of the great vocal masterpieces of last Century

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tracks:

CD 1

1. Symphony no. 14 - De profundis. Adagio (05:37)
2. Symphony no. 14 - Malagen'ya. Allegretto (02:42)
3. Symphony no. 14 - Loreleya. Allegro molto. Presto. Adagio (09:08)
4. Symphony no. 14 - Samoubi'ytsa (The Suicide). Adagio (07:49)
5. Symphony no. 14 - Nacheku (On the Alert). Allegretto. Adagio.
Allegretto (03:06)
6. Symphony no. 14 - Madam, posmotrite (Look here, Madam). Adagio
(01:46)
7. Symphony no. 14 - V tyur'me Sante (At the Santé Jail). Adagio (10:23)
8. Symphony no. 14 - Otvét zaporozjckikh kazakov konstantinopelskomu
sultanu (Reply to the Sultan of Konstantinopel). Allegro (02:20)
9. Symphony no. 14 - O Delvig, Delvig! Andante (05:12)
10. Symphony no. 14 - Smert' poeta (The Poet's Death). Largo (05:33)
11. Symphony no. 14 - Zaklyuchenije (Conclusion). Moderato (01:31)

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DMITRI SHOSTAKOVICH
Symphony no. 14
Gal James & Thomas Oliemans
Netherlands Chamber Orchestra
Gordan Nikolić



DMITRI SHOSTAKOVICH (1906-1975)

- [1] **De profundis.** Adagio
- [2] **Malagen'ya.** Allegretto
- [3] **Loreleya.** Allegro molto. Presto. Adagio
- [4] **Samoubi'ytsa** (The Suicide). Adagio
- [5] **Nacheku** (On the Alert). Allegretto. Adagio. Allegretto
- [6] **Madam, posmotrite** (Look here, Madam). Adagio
- [7] **V tyur'me Sante** (At the Santé Jail). Adagio
- [8] **Otvét zaporozjckikh kazakov konstantinopelskomu sultanu**
(Reply to the Sultan of Konstantinopel). Allegro
- [9] **O Delvig, Delvig!** Andante
- [10] **Smert' poeta** (The Poet's Death). Largo
- [11] **Zaklyuchenije** (Conclusion). Moderato

complete track information inside booklet



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