



PHCD 155

Dmitry

SHOSTAKOVICH

Violin Sonata, Op. 134

Viola Sonata, Op. 147

LEVON AMBARTSUMIAN, violin/viola
Anatoly Sheludyakov, piano

Shostakovich Ambartsumian Sheludyakov

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Viola Sonata, Op. 147

Tk.1 Andante
 Tk.2 Allegretto
 Tk.3 Largo

Tk.4 Moderato
 Tk.5 Allegretto
 Tk.6 Adagio
 9:17
 6:31
 13:52

Levon AMBARTSUMIAN, violin/viola
Anatoly Sheludyakov, piano



Produced for CD by JEFFREY KAUFMAN

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DDD

File under Classical/Shostakovich



COMPACT
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DIGITAL AUDIO

DMITRY SHOSTAKOVICH

*Born September 25, 1906, in St. Petersburg, Russia
Died August 14, 1975, in Moscow, Russia*

Shostakovich is one of the most performed composers of the 20th century. Shostakovich graduated from the St. Petersburg Conservatory as a pianist and composer. His *First Symphony*, which won immediate worldwide recognition, was performed by Bruno Walter and Arturo Toscanini. However, his overall career in Russia varied with the political climate. The initial success of his 1932 opera *Lady Macbeth of Mzensk District*, based on the story by Leskov, and later revised as *Katerina Ismailova*, was followed by official condemnation, apparently, from Stalin himself. The composer's *Fifth Symphony*, in 1937, received partial acceptance. And in 1940, the composer was awarded the Stalin Prize and instantly gained entrance among the Soviet elite. In 1941, while the city was being occupied by the Germans, Shostakovich became a hero of Soviet propaganda for writing and performing the *Leningrad Symphony*. But in 1948, he fell out of favor with the Soviet musical establishment with his *Ninth Symphony*, which was officially considered "frivolous." Following Stalin's death in 1953, the composer enjoyed relative freedom. Yet behind the official façade of such titles as "People's Deputy" and "Laureate" of the Lenin Prize, Shostakovich was a man with a scarred soul. This suffering is audible in his grandiose legacy of musical works. He is the author of three operas, three ballets, 15 symphonies, 15 string quartets, instrumental concertos, chamber music, vocal cycles, 24 preludes and fugues for piano, and many film and theater scores (his main source of income).

Violin Sonata, Op. 134

The Violin Sonata, Op. 134 was written in honor of David Oistrakh's 60th birthday and premiered in Moscow on May 2, 1969, with Oistrakh and Svyatoslav Richter performing. Oistrakh was a close friend of Shostakovich and served as the composer's main inspiration for both of his violin concertos.

Viola Sonata, Op.147

The Viola Sonata, Op. 147 was Shostakovich's last work. It was dedicated to the violist Fyodor Druzhinin, a professor of the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory and a member of the Beethoven String Quartet, a renowned Moscow ensemble that played at the premieres of most of Shostakovich's string quartets. Fyodor Druzhinin and Mikhail Muntyan premiered the Viola Sonata in Leningrad on October 1, 1975.

Levon Ambartsumian, born in Moscow in 1955, began studying violin at the age of three. He attended the Moscow Central Music School and then graduated from the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory with a special artist diploma. His teachers there were Felix Andrievski, Yuri Yankelevich, Leonid Kogan, and Igor Bezrodny. In 1977 he was the first prizewinner of the Zagreb International Violin Competition headed by Henryk Szeryng. Two years later he garnered a prize at the Montreal International Competition, and in 1981 he won the All-Union Violin Competition in Riga. Mr. Ambartsumian was distinguished as an honored artist of Armenia in 1988 and an honored artist of Russia in 1997. Mr. Ambartsumian has performed regularly in all the major cities of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. He has appeared as a soloist and recorded for radio and television with the Tchaikovsky Symphony Orchestra, Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra, Bolshoy Theater Orchestra, Kirov Opera, and the Budapest, Bucharest, Sofia, and Peking philharmonic orchestras, among many others. He has collaborated with conductors and composers such as Valery Gergiev, Vladimir Fedoseyev, Maxim Shostakovich, Aram Khachaturian, Tikhon Khrennikov, and Alfred Schnittke. Since 1988 he has performed in the United States, Canada, Italy, France, Germany, Greece, Spain, Brazil, and South Korea. Mr. Ambartsumian joined the faculty of the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory in 1978. For two years he was a visiting professor at Indiana University School of Music, and in 1995 he accepted the position of the Franklin Professor of Violin at the University Of Georgia School Of Music in Athens. Mr. Ambartsumian devotes his time to contemporary Russian and American music and has made several world premieres. He has released several CDs, including music by Wieniawski, Brahms, Mendelssohn, Vivaldi, Shostakovich, Schnittke, Arutunian, Vasks, and Bronner.

As a teacher, he has given master classes in Russia, Armenia, South Korea, Canada, Brazil, and France. Tonight Mr. Ambartsumian is appearing in the all-Shostakovich program both as violinist and violist, a unique scenario in modern concert practice. He performs on a violin and viola crafted by Boris Bratichov, Prague.

Anatoly Sheludiyakov was born in Moscow in 1955 where he graduated from the Russian Academy of Music and completed his postgraduate studies there under Professor Anatoly Vedernikov. He also graduated from the Moscow Conservatory in the composition class of Tikhon Khrennikov. In 1977 Sheludiyakov was the winner of the Russian National Piano Competition. He has performed solo concerts with orchestras, solo recitals, and chamber music performances in the most prestigious concert halls in Moscow, St. Petersburg, and other major

cities in Russia, the United States, Germany, France, Italy, Finland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, China and Australia. He has recorded seven CDs and has performed on Russian radio and television. Mr. Sheludyakov was distin-

guished as honored artist of Russia in 1999. His repertoire includes the major works for piano, piano and orchestra, and piano chamber music of the baroque, classical, romantic, and contemporary periods. He has been an assistant professor of piano at Russia Academy of Music and maintained a private piano studio. Mr. Sheludyakov is an artist-in-residence at the University of Georgia.

Boris Braitchev, violinmaker, was born in Moscow, Russia where he worked until 1998, when he moved to Prague, Czech Republic. Many excellent musicians all over the world are playing on Mr. Braitchev's instruments because of their exceptional sound quality. His instruments are in possession of many important musicians in major European orchestras including the Berlinerstadt Opera, Montpellier Philharmonic Orchestra, the Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra and others. Several world premieres of works by contemporary composers have been made and recorded on his instruments.



Anatoly Sheludyakov

Levon Ambartsoumian