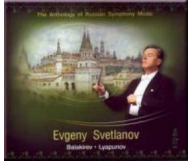


Sergei Lyapunov – Symphony No.1 In B Minor, Op.12 (1886)

Written by bluesever

Wednesday, 20 July 2011 19:04 - Last Updated Thursday, 06 February 2014 17:07

Sergei Lyapunov – Symphony No.1 In B Minor, Op.12 (1886)



1. *Andantino – Allegro con spirito* 2. *Andante sostenuto* 3. *Scherzo – Allegretto vivace* [pl](#)
[ay](#)
4. *Finale – Allegro molto*
USSR State Academic Symphony Orchestra Evgeniy Svetlanov – conductor

The first of Lyapunov's two symphonies is a grand essay in the late Russian Romantic mould, a youthful yet masterful work of great charm and power.

Sergei Lyapunov has always been a shadowy figure, his derivative yet distinctive voice drowned by his more celebrated compatriots and even by his contemporaries Taneyev, Liadov and Arensky. Yet hearing the First Symphony in a performance of this calibre you're reminded of the way Lyapunov's melodic appeal is complemented by brilliant craftsmanship.

The opening motif is sufficiently brief to invite elaboration and to play a key role in music as coherent as it's heartfelt. The chromatic undertow as the music eases into the *poco più tranquillo*, its mix of sweetness and unrest looks ahead to Rachmaninov's Second Symphony, and if the themes are less memorable than in that towering Romantic masterpiece they're marshalled and directed with great compositional skill.

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