

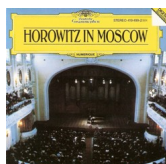
111 Years of Deutsche Grammophon - CD 24

Written by bluesever

Wednesday, 23 May 2012 16:41 -

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Horowitz in Moscow



Domenico Scarlatti (1685 - 1757) Sonata in E, K.380 1 *Andante comodo* [3:58] Wolfgang
Amadeus Mozart (1756 - 1791) Piano Sonata No.10 in C major, K.330
2 1. *Allegro moderato* [6:10] 3 2. *Andante cantabile* [5:58] 4 3. *Allegretto* [4:48]
Sergey Vasil'yevich Rachmaninov (1873 - 1943)
5 *Prelude in G, Op.32, No.5* [2:49] 6 *Prélude in G sharp minor, Op.32, No.12* [2:33]
Alexander Scriabin (1872 - 1915)
3 *Pieces for piano, Op.2* 7 1. *Etude in C sharp minor* [2:39]
12 *Etudes for piano, Op.8*
8 *No. 12 in D sharp minor* [2:09]
Franz Liszt (1811 - 1886)
9 *Soirées de Vienne: 9 Valses-Caprices after Schubert* [6:33] *Années de pèlerinage: 2ème
année: Italie, S.161* 10 5. *Sonetto 104 del Petrarca* [5:33]
Frédéric Chopin (1810 - 1849)
11 *Mazurka No.21 in C sharp minor Op.30 No.4* [3:33] 12 *Mazurka No.7 in F minor Op.7 No.3*
[2:15]
Robert Schumann (1810 - 1856) *Kinderszenen, Op.15*
13 7. *Träumerei* [2:24]
Moritz Moszkowski (1854 - 1925) *Étincelles, Morceau caractéristique op.36, no.6*
14 *Allegro scherzando* [2:38]
Sergey Vasil'yevich Rachmaninov (1873 - 1943) *Polka de V. R.*
15 *Allegretto* [4:04]
Vladimir Horowitz – piano

A pianist of legendary fame and stature, Vladimir Horowitz was born in Kiev, Ukraine. His mother, herself a professional pianist, provided his first instruction at the piano and was the first to recognize his extraordinary talents; he studied further at the Kiev Conservatory. His first

public appearance was a recital in Kiev on May 30, 1920, and in 1922 he gave a series of 15 concerts in Kharkov for which he was paid in food and clothing. Although Russia was still reeling from the revolution of 1917, Horowitz fashioned successful concert tours in major cities such as Moscow, Leningrad, and Kiev -- marking the beginning of a performing career of unflagging and spectacular success.

His first international appearance came with his 1926 trip to Berlin, soon after which followed concerts in Paris, London, and New York. Further appearances in the United States solidified his reputation as an exceptional virtuoso, and the country which was to become his adopted home embraced him warmly. He was invited to the White House to play for President Hoover in 1931, and in 1933 he married Wanda Toscanini -- the daughter of the famous conductor Arturo Toscanini, who would soon conduct Horowitz and the New York Philharmonic Orchestra in performances of the Beethoven piano concertos. Horowitz permanently settled in the United States in 1940 and achieved citizenship in 1944.

Wanda Toscanini assumed a gentle stewardship of her new husband, who was in fragile physical and emotional health. Often seized with an irrational fear of failure, Horowitz found the life of touring threatening to his equilibrium. He withdrew from the concert stage for several periods during his life, and made only rare appearances after 1970. When Horowitz did schedule a concert, it often took the persuasive powers of his wife and friends to keep him from canceling at the last minute. His nagging, and often overpowering, insecurity led him to seek shock therapy in 1973, but though he seemed to achieve some benefit from treatment, he was never free of anxiety when playing in public. The one exception to this trend was when he appeared as accompanist to another artist, which he often did with baritone Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, cellist Mstislav Rostropovich, and violinist Isaac Stern. Because of his long absences from the concert stage, Horowitz's popularity was largely sustained by his recordings.

Perhaps the most significant single event in Horowitz's long career was his long-overdue return to the Soviet Union (his first since his departure in the 1920s) for a series of concerts in 1986. The resulting tour became a major political event, coinciding as it did with an era of new understanding between the United States and the Soviet Union, and it resonated powerfully with Soviet audiences. Revitalized by the Soviet tour, Horowitz signed a new contract with Sony; the contract included provisions for recording him at home on his favorite piano. He made his last such recording on November 1, 1989; on November 5 he died of a massive heart attack.

As a performer, Horowitz had huge resources of speed and power, and a clean articulation. His performances were brilliant, exciting, and often mystifying to those who found his technique enigmatic (he played, for instance, with unusually straight fingers, laying them nearly flat on the

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keys). Though his performances were frequently criticized for their willfulness and self-indulgent nature, there was an undeniable charisma to his playing that endeared him to most everyone who heard him. ---All Music Guide

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