

Khachaturian - Piano Concerto • Gayaneh Ballet Suite • Masquerade Suite (1987)



1. *Piano Concerto: I. Allegro maestoso Constantine Orbelian* 14:13 2. *Piano Concerto: II. Andante con anima Constantine Orbelian* 9:44 3. *Piano Concerto: III. Allegro brillante Constantine Orbelian* 9:23 4. *Masquerade Suite: I. Waltz Royal Scottish National Orchestra* 3:57 5. *Masquerade Suite: II. Nocturne Royal Scottish National Orchestra* 3:31 6. *Masquerade Suite: III. Mazurka Royal Scottish National Orchestra* 2:41 7. *Masquerade Suite: IV. Romance Royal Scottish National Orchestra* 3:08 8. *Masquerade Suite: V. Galop Royal Scottish National Orchestra* 3:01 9. *Gayane: I. Sabre Dance Royal Scottish National Orchestra* 2:33 10. *Gayane: III. Dance of the Rose Maidens Royal Scottish National Orchestra* 2:23 11. *Gayane: V. Lullaby Royal Scottish National Orchestra* 4:39 12. *Gayane: VIII. Lezhinka Royal Scottish National Orchestra* 2:45

Constantine Orbelian – piano
Scottish National Orchestra
Neeme Järvi – conductor

The Khachaturian Piano Concerto is a blast. One of the finest pieces of 20th century music ever written and brilliantly performed by Orbelian. I loved this concerto the first time I heard it and it remains one of my favorites. This is Soviet-era music at its best. Khachaturian loved powerful rhythms and many sections are evocative of locomotives and heavy machinery. Although there is some mild dissonance in the music, it is pleasing and does not detract from the beauty in any way. The concerto is an emotionally charged work with a distinctive Armenian flavor and the second movement is pure poetry.

In the Gayaneh Ballet and Masquerade Suite, the Scottish National Orchestra pulls out all the stops and is obviously having a rollicking good time playing these terrific pieces. In addition to his love of rhythm, Khachaturian had a remarkable harmonic sense and these pieces are replete with beautiful melodies and lush orchestration. Highly recommended. ---Steven M. Beresford, amazon.com

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