



10 CD

# GREAT RUSSIAN SYMPHONIES

TCHAIKOVSKY • BORODIN • PROKOFIEV • MYASKOVSKY • SHOSTAKOVICH  
RIMSKY-KORSAKOV • RACHMANINOV • SRIABIN • GLAZUNOV • KALINNIKOV

The word 'symphony' is used to describe an extended orchestral composition in Western classical music. By the eighteenth century the Italianate opera sinfonia - musical interludes between operas or concertos - had assumed the structure of three contrasting movements, and it is this form that is often considered as the direct forerunner of the orchestral symphony. With the rise of established professional orchestras, the symphony assumed a more prominent place in concert life between 1790 and 1820 until it eventually came to be regarded by many as the yardstick by which one would measure a composer's achievement.

The symphony came late to Russia. The first attempts at a Russian Nationalist symphony were made in the late nineteenth-century by Balakirev and his acolytes, Borodin and Rimsky-Korsakov as well as by Tchaikovsky, whose symphonies (despite his European leanings) have a distinctly Russian flavour. In their wake followed numerous composers, from Glazunov to Myaskovsky, similarly instilling their music with the melodies of their homeland. In the years that followed Russian politics had an unmistakable impact on the Russian symphonists, as Rachmaninov and Prokofiev (among others) went into exile whilst composers such as Shostakovich vented their political frustrations through the medium of music - his Leningrad Symphony being a prime example.



The booklet includes an Introduction to the Symphony plus notes for each work.

GREAT RUSSIAN SYMPHONIES includes the following symphonies:

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| CD 1 <b>Tchaikovsky</b> Symphony No. 4 /<br><b>Borodin</b> Symphony No. 2   | CD 6 <b>Shostakovich</b> Symphony No. 7                                  |
| CD 2 <b>Tchaikovsky</b> Symphony No. 5 / Romeo and Juliet                   | CD 7 <b>Rimsky-Korsakov</b> Symphony No. 2 /<br>Sheherazade              |
| CD 3 <b>Tchaikovsky</b> Symphony No. 6 / 1812 Overture                      | CD 8 <b>Rachmaninov</b> Symphony No. 2 / The Rock                        |
| CD 4 <b>Prokofiev</b> Symphony No.5 /<br><b>Myaskovsky</b> Symphony No. 25  | CD 9 <b>Scriabin</b> Symphony No.3 /<br>Le Poème de l'extase             |
| CD 5 <b>Shostakovich</b> Symphony No. 5 /<br><b>Prokofiev</b> Symphony No.1 | CD 10 <b>Glazunov</b> Symphony No.6 /<br><b>Kalinnikov</b> Symphony No.1 |

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Cover painting: *View of the Monument to Peter the Great in Senate Square, St. Petersburg* by Vasilij Ivanovic Surikov (1848-1916) (State Russian Museum, St. Petersburg, Russia / The Bridgeman Art Library)



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