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PRISTINE SOVIET SERIES

Rostropovich: Chamber Music Volume 1

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This is as accomplished a performance as a glance at the names of the players would lead one to expect. I had not heard Emil Gilels in chamber music before; he makes a fine partner for Kogan and Rostropovich and seems to have a very clear idea of the primus inter pares role that Beethoven requires him to play in the Archduke Trio. A naturally commanding player, he succeeds in catching just the right air of authority here. I hope we shall be offered much more of him in chamber music.

Not many years ago we used to be told quite regularly—and with some truth—that good chamber music playing could never be hoped for from a collection of virtuosi. From an ad hoc collection, no: the careless throwing together of soloists' temperaments, such as we witnessed from time to time at international festivals, could scarcely be expected to generate much light. But the juxtaposition of strong musical personalities in chamber music can create excitement when properly managed. It does so here. Kogan, Rostropovich and Gilels play as one mind but at the same time as a mind with three facets; the performance benefits considerably from the individuality each retains.

The playing as a whole is very strong and direct (though never forced or obvious) and I think that anyone expecting soulfulness and Innigkeit above all in the Archduke might at first find the performance a little unsatisfying. Yet it is never inflexible: there is nothing relentless about any of the tempi and one gets the impression that there's always time for the detail in the music to make effect.

This new record arrived rather late for review and I haven't had time to play it more than once. I doubt, though, whether subsequent hearings would cause me to modify my initial impression, which is of a perceptive, noble and justly proportioned interpretation almost impeccably executed.

Review by S.P., The Gramophone, August 1963 - excerpts, *Le Chant du Monde* LP issue

Producer's Note

Mstislav Rostropovich made a large number of recordings for release in the Soviet Union at the start of his career. Many of these were picked up by Western record companies either at the time or since, but there remain undiscovered treasures still to be found. Here we mix the known and the unknown. It's no surprise to find the *Archduke* turned up in the UK in the early 60s, and it's been reissued since. But I can find no solid account of two of the three recordings with Alexander Dedyukhin that I discovered on a Soviet compilation LP of recordings by the cellist and which we present here. Both LPs were in very good condition, though the Soviet pressings weren't quite up to contemporary Western standards. XR remastering has done wonders for the rather dim original sound quality, and these recordings really are a delight to hear as a result. A.R.

FULL PROGRAMME NOTES CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM
SARL Pristine Audio, 144 Rue de l'Eglise, 24610 St. Méard de Gurçon, France

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РОСТРОПОВИЧ

CHAMBER MUSIC, VOLUME 1

Бетховен: "Архидише Трио"

Эмил Гилельс, пиано

Леонид Коган, виолончель

Мстислав Ростропович, виолончель

Ясаганов: Oriental Dance

Гранадос: Spanish Dance "Andaluz"

Сюртис: Фиттодистон & Polonaise

Мстислав Ростропович, виолончель

Александр Дедюхин, виолончель

STUDIO RECORDINGS, 1956.

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ROSTROPOVICH CHAMBER MUSIC, VOLUME 1
ROSTROPOVICH, GILELS, KOGAN, DEDYUKHIN

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XR remastering by **Andrew Rose**

Cover artwork based on a
photograph of **Rostropovich**

Beethoven Archduke Trio
Recorded Moscow, 1956
Transfer from Melodiya ND 03456-03457

Rachmaninov - Granados - Chopin
Recorded December 1956, Polskie
Nagrania, Warsaw, Poland
Transfer from Melodiya 33D-027828

ROSTROPOVICH *Chamber Music Volume 1*

BEETHOVEN Piano Trio No. 7 in B flat, Op. 97 "Archduke"

- 1 1st mvt. - Allegro moderato (12:42)
- 2 2nd mvt. - Scherzo (Allegro) (11:40)
- 3 3rd mvt. - Andante cantabile ma però con moto (12:14)
- 4 4th mvt. - Allegro moderato - Presto (7:09)

Emil Gilels *piano*

Leonid Kogan *violin*

Mstislav Rostropovich *cello*

- 5 RACHMANINOV Danse Orientale in A minor, Op.2, No.2 (7:18)
- 6 GRANADOS (arr. Pekker) Danzas Españolas No. 5 - 'Andaluza' (4:39)
- 7 CHOPIN Introduction and Polonaise brillante in C, Op.3 (9:06)

Mstislav Rostropovich *cello*

Alexander Dedyukhin *piano*

Total duration: **64:48**

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