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TCHAIKOVSKY

Voivoda (The Voyevoda), Op. 3

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From the very first days of his residence in Moscow the composer was fired with the idea of writing an opera and in his letters pertaining to that period he complained that he could not find a suitable libretto. As Tchaikovsky had by that time become friendly with the famous playwright it was only natural that he should want to cooperate with him. At first Tchaikovsky wanted to ask Ostrovsky to write a libretto based on his drama "The Storm" which the composer especially admired but as it turned out that the libretto had been already written for another composer Ostrovsky suggested that he write a libretto based on another play of his entitled "The Voivoda or Dream on the Volga."...

After the fifth performance Tchaikovsky took his score from the theatre and later burned it. Some fragments of the music he later used in other works (the opera "Oprichnik" and ballet "Swanlake"). Apart from this, immediately after the premiere of the opera, the composer wrote a piano "Potpurri" that combines some tunes of the opera.

In our time the score of the opera "Voivoda" was restored by Soviet composers V. Shebalin and Y. Kochurov in cooperation with musicologists S. Popov and P. Lamm. They re-created Tchaikovsky's first opera basing their effort on a number of scores for the orchestra, choir and soloists that had been preserved in the archives of the theatre. In 1949 the restored opera "Voivoda" was staged by the Maly Opera Theatre in Leningrad.

In 1952, on N. Golovanov's suggestion, soloists of Moscow theatres and the orchestra and choir of Moscow Radio conducted by A. Kovalev recorded some fragments from the opera "Voivoda" and the recording has been included in this album.

Excerpts from Melodiya sleeve notes for original LP issue - (*Complete notes can be read online*)

Producer's Note

Tchaikovsky's first opera, *Voivoda* as titled on the original Melodiya LPs but now more commonly written *The Voyevoda* is one of his most obscure works, largely thanks to his destruction of the score. To the best of my knowledge there has been one full recording, also originating in the USSR, and this early double-LP set of highlights or "fragments", which I understand to have been produced for radio broadcast. In terms of sound quality it's very much of its age and origin - not bad, but soon to be eclipsed by recordings made later in the decade. That said, I've heard far worse from western record companies working in the early 1950s! I've managed to breathe quite a bit of life into a slightly dull and dusty original, whilst battling against peak distortion at higher frequencies during some of the tracks. The titles used for the various tracks here are listed exactly as written on the Melodiya LPs - those who are interested might like to follow the full score, included with our downloads and linked to on our website, where you'll also find a short synopsis. **Andrew Rose**

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

Tchaikovsky Voivoda op. 3

Fragments from the opera

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Natalya Rozhdestvenskaya
Lyudmila Legostaeva
Anatoly Orfenov
Aleksey Korolev
Daniil Demianov
Mikhail Skazin
Piotr Pontryagin
Konstantin Polyayev
Z. Sokolovskaya

Moscow Radio Choir and Orchestra
conductor Alexei Kovalev

Broadcast recording, Melodiya LP, 1952

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FRAGMENTS FROM THE OPERA
KOVALEV, SOLOISTS, MOSCOW RADIO CHORUS AND ORCHESTRA

TCHAIKOVSKY *Voivoda, Op. 3* *Fragments from the opera*

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XR remastering by Andrew Rose

Cover artwork based on a
photograph of Alexei Kovalev

Transfer from Melodiya
D.034303-06

Total duration: 72:20

- 1 Overture (9:45)
- 2 Bastrukov's Aria (6:44)
- 3 Duet of Marya Vlassievna and Bastrukov (5:00)
- 4 Matchmaking Scene (11:02)
- 5 Dances of Housemaids (11:14)
- 6 Scene and Duet of Marya Vlassievna and Olena (8:51)
- 7 Scene and Aria of Dubrovin (6:30)
- 8 Finale of the Opera (13:14)

CAST

Marya Vlassievna - N. Rozhdestvenskaya
Olena - L. Legostaeva
Bastrukov - A. Orfenov
Dubrovin - A. Korolev
Voivoda - D. Demianov
New voivoda - M. Skazin
Jester - P. Pontriagin
Father of Marya Vlassievna - K. Poliaev
Mother of Marya Vlassievna - Z. Sokolovskaya

Recorded in Moscow, 1952

Choir and Orchestra of Radio Moscow
A. Kovalev, conductor

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