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YEVGENY MRAVINSKY

conducts Tchaikovsky Symphonies 4-6

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STEREO

1. "Turning to the Mravinsky performances one is in another world. They tingle with the excitement and electricity that a great live performance generates. His record of No. 4 has tremendous personality even if it is not without idiosyncratic touches. Although the brass in the Leningrad orchestra has a tendency to blare at times, the fact remains that the refinement and imagination that informs the string playing and the beauty of their phrasing puts them in a class of their own. Mravinsky's approach is carefully thought out and his shaping of the architecture, though at times personal, has the merit of greater organic logic. Some of the dynamic markings are not scrupulously observed but microphone placing may account for some of this..."

2. "Mravinsky's accounts of the late Tchaikovsky symphonies have tremendous tension and virtuosity, a sense of spiritual commitment and emotional power that are quite out of the ordinary. Even when, as happens at one point in the first movement of the Fourth Symphony, he ignores the dynamic markings he does so with such conviction that you are left with the feeling that he is right. These transfers seem to me as every bit as good as the originals that I played relatively recently (I have only sampled these copies) and although my allegiance to Mravinsky's earlier record-now deleted-with the Leningrad Philharmonic of the Pathétique remains unshaken (DGM18334, 2/57), this later version is still one of the most moving and thrilling accounts of the work committed to record. These performances radiate a tremendous power, a sense of truth and authenticity of experience and they remain for me at any rate among the classics of the gramophone."

R.L., The Gramophone,

Excerpts: 1. November 1973 (*from box set reissue*), 2. December 1974 (*from individual LP reissues*)

Producer's Note

Yevgeny Mravinsky made these recordings with the Leningrad Philharmonic Orchestra for DGG whilst on a tour of western Europe in the autumn of 1960 in sessions which took place in London (Symphony No. 4) and Vienna (Symphonies 5 & 6). Although regarded still today as pillars of the recorded canon, reviews both upon release in 1961 and, quoted here, upon reissue in the 1970s, found something lacking sonically. Likewise contemporary reviews of the currently-available DGG CDs. My aim in carrying out a 32-bit XR remastering of the recordings was to see whether a harmonic rebalancing of the recordings might serve to eliminate these reservations, and I'm pleased to report that substantial improvements have been possible. The sound of the originals was unusually boxy for 1960, with a rather constricted top end and a lack of real depth in the bass. All three of these shortcomings have been resolved here, bringing an even greater sense of immediacy and realism to these fabulous performances.

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

MRAVINSKY

Tchaikovsky

Symphony No. 4 in F minor, Op. 36

Symphony No. 5 in E minor, Op. 64

Symphony No. 6 in B minor,

"Pathétique", op. 74

Leningrad Philharmonic Orchestra

Yevgeny Mravinsky, conductor

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STEREO STUDIO RECORDINGS, LONDON & VIENNA, 1960

MRVINSKY *Tchaikovsky Symphonies 4-6*

TCHAIKOVSKY *Symphony No. 4 in F minor, Op. 36*

- 1 1st mvt. - Andante sostenuto (19:03)
- 2 2nd mvt. - Andantino in modo di canzone (9:25)
- 3 3rd mvt. - Scherzo: Allegro (5:54)
- 4 4th mvt. - Finale: Allegro con fuoco (8:16)

TCHAIKOVSKY *Symphony No. 5 in E minor, Op. 64*

- 5 1st mvt. - Andante - Allegro con anima (14:48)
- 6 2nd mvt. - Andante catabile, con alcuna licenza (12:04)
- 1 3rd mvt. - Valse: Allegro moderato (5:32)
- 2 4th mvt. - Andante maestoso - Allegro vivace (11:55)

TCHAIKOVSKY *Symphony No. 6 in B minor, Op. 74, "Pathétique"*

- 3 1st mvt. - Adagio - Allegro non troppo (17:52)
- 4 2nd mvt. - Allegro con grazia (8:12)
- 5 3rd mvt. - Allegro molto vivace (8:27)
- 6 4th mvt. - Adagio lamentoso - Andante (9:55)

Leningrad Philharmonic Orchestra *Yevgeny Mravinsky*

XR remastering by **Andrew Rose**

Cover artwork based on a photograph of
Yevgeny Mravinsky

Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 4
Recorded 14, 15 September 1960
Wembley Town Hall, London
First issued as DGG SLPM138657

Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 5
Recorded 9, 10 November 1960
Großer Saal, Musikverein, Vienna
First issued as DGG SLPM138658

Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 6
Recorded 7-9 November 1960
Großer Saal, Musikverein, Vienna
First issued as DGG SLPM138659

Balance Engineer: Harald Baudis

Total duration: **2hr 11:22**

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