



Sevitzky

Indianapolis Symphony, Vol. 4



With this fourth volume in our series of the complete recordings of Fabien Sevitzky and the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, we return to the Romantic Russian repertoire for which he was particularly esteemed. Our focus here is on two First Symphonies, both in G minor, separated in composition by nearly three decades. For one composer, it was the start of a brilliant career as a symphonist; while for the other, it was a success not to be duplicated during the remainder of his short life.

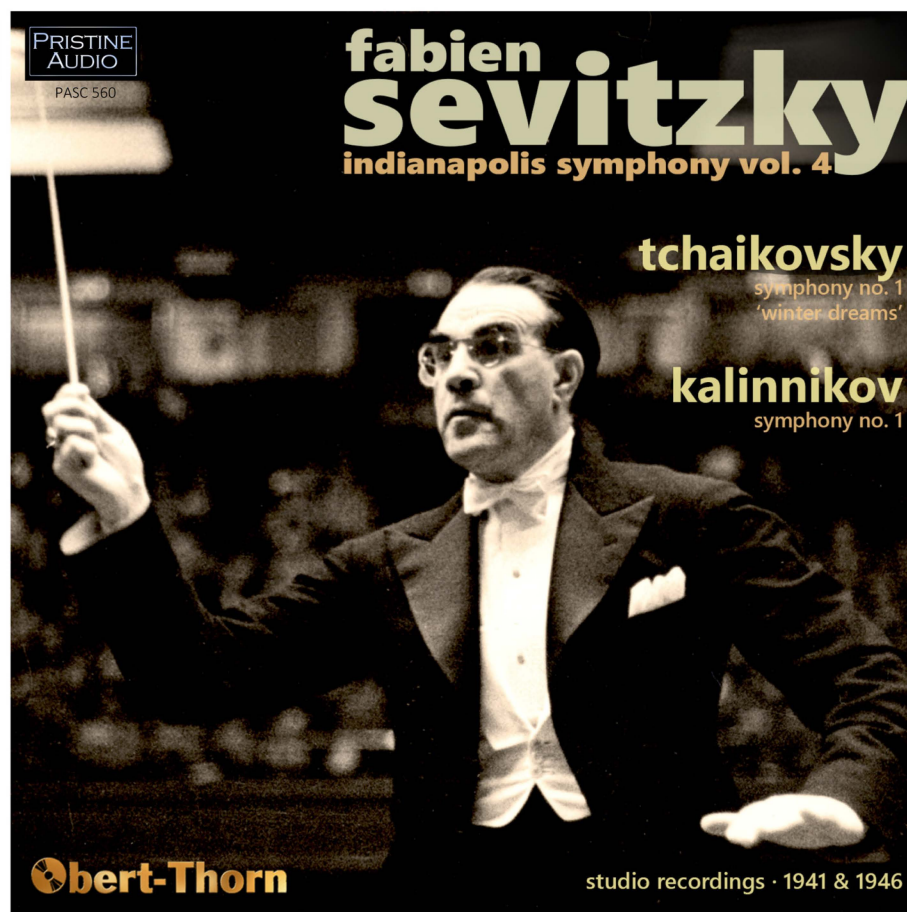
Tchaikovsky began work on his first symphony in March of 1866, shortly before his twenty-sixth birthday. It quickly became a trial for him due to his desire to earn the approval of two of his teachers, Anton Rubinstein and Nikolai Zarembo, musical conservatives whose ideals were centered on Classical and early Romantic-era German models. They insisted on changes before they would agree to a performance. The composer obliged, and the two middle movements were presented in St. Petersburg in February of the following year to little acclaim.

Tchaikovsky then went back, for the most part, to his original version, which his friend Nikolai Rubinstein (Anton's brother) was eager to perform. The Scherzo alone was played at a Moscow concert in December of 1867, again without much success. It was not until a complete performance the following February that audiences finally warmed to the work. Tchaikovsky would go on to revise the score in 1874, and would ultimately look back on this early composition with great pride. (In this recording, Sevitzky performs the last two movements without a pause.)

Vasily Kalinnikov was born in 1866, the same year that Tchaikovsky's First Symphony was written. He had worked as a choral conductor and an instrumentalist in theater orchestras when Tchaikovsky himself recommended him for two opera house conducting posts in 1892. Kalinnikov's worsening tuberculosis caused him to resign after a short while in order to move to the more hospitable climate of Yalta on the Baltic Sea. He spent the rest of his life there composing before his death in 1901, shortly before his thirty-fifth birthday. His First Symphony, which dates from this period, was premiered in Kiev in 1897 and quickly traveled to the musical capitals of the world. It remains the work by which he is best known.

Like his recording of Tchaikovsky's *Manfred* Symphony (reissued on Volume 1 of this series, Pristine PASC 479), the present works were phonographic premières, and Sevitzky presents both colorful scores with great enthusiasm and obvious affection. The sources for the transfers were first edition American Victor pressings – postwar discs for the Tchaikovsky, and wartime "silver" label copies for the Kalinnikov.

Mark Obert-Thorn



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FABIEŃ SEWITZKY AND THE INDIANAPOLIS SYMPHONY - VOLUME 4: TCHAIKOVSKY, KALINNIKOV SYMPHONIES
SEWITZKY, INDIANAPOLIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

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PRISTINE
AUDIO

TCHAIKOVSKY *Symphony No. 1* in G minor, Op. 13 "Winter Dreams" (1866)

1. 1st Mvt. - Allegro tranquillo ('Dreams of a Winter Journey') (11:13)
2. 2nd Mvt. - Adagio cantabile ma non tanto ('Land of Desolation, Land of Mists') (10:29)
3. 3rd Mvt. - Scherzo: Allegro scherzando giocoso (6:13)
4. 4th Mvt. - Finale: Andante lugubre – Allegro maestoso (11:54)

Recorded 19 March 1946

Matrix nos.: D6-RC-5250-2A, 5251-2, 5252-1C, 5253-1, 5254-2, 5255-1C, 5256-2A, 5257-2C & 5258-2

First issued on RCA Victor 12-0040/4 in album M-1189

KALINNIKOV *Symphony No. 1* in G minor (1894-95)

5. 1st Mvt. - Allegro moderato (9:40)
6. 2nd Mvt. - Andante commodamente (8:52)
7. 3rd Mvt. - Scherzo: Allegro non troppo - Moderato assai (7:32)
8. 4th Mvt. - Finale: Allegro moderato (9:28)

Recorded 7 & 8 January 1941

Matrix nos.: CS 057576-1, 057577-1A, 057578-1, 057579-2, 057580-1, 057581-2, 057582-1 & 057583-1

First issued on Victor 18187/90 in album M-827

Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra

conducted by Fabien Sewitzky

Producer and Audio Restoration Engineer: **Mark Obert-Thorn**

Cover artwork based on a photograph of Fabien Sewitzky. Special thanks to Nathan Brown and Charles Niss for providing source material.

All works recorded in the Murat Theatre, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Total duration: **75:21**

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