

COMPACT
DIGITAL AUDIO
#PASC 321

Rostropovich Dvořák & Miaskovsky Cello Concertos

PRISTINE
AUDIO
XR

Mstislav Rostropovich is one of the new generation of Soviet virtuosi who have in recent years excited the interest of the western world. Rostropovich was born at Baku, Azerbaijan, in 1927 and received his early training from his father, Leopold Rostropovich, himself a brilliant 'cellist. In 1943 he entered the Moscow Conservatoire and studied with Professor Semson Kozolupov. He made rapid progress and graduated with distinction in three years. He continued his studies as a post-graduate student and completed his course in 1948.

Before leaving the Conservatoire he had already begun to make his appearance as a concert artist. He appeared with the well-known artists Emil Gilels, Svyatoslav Richter and Leonid Kogan. Rostropovich competed in a number of musical events and was awarded first place at the All-Union Contest in Moscow in 1945, the International Festival of Youth and Students in Prague in 1947 and in Budapest in 1949, and the International Contest for the Hanns Wigné Prize in Prague in 1950. He was awarded the Stalin Prize in 1951.

Rostropovich is a versatile musician, a composer and a gifted pianist. His repertoire includes every work in the 'cello repertoire, the Beethoven and Brahms sonatas, the concertos of Tartini, Haydn, Dvorak, Lalo, Saint-Saens and the Tchaikovsky Variations on a Rococo Theme. His playing is distinguished by its restraint and nobility and the exceptional virtuosity of his technique.

From SleeveNotes to HMV ALP 1427, 1956

Transfer notes

Rostropovich's 1952 Prague recording of the Dvořák Cello Concerto is one of the earliest records of what was to become the cellist's signature tune - to the extent that he demanded a significantly higher fee for playing any concert which included the work. Previous issues of this Supraphon recording have suffered a harshness of tone which XR remastering has neutralised, whilst bringing out the full tone of both soloist and orchestra. To be able to hear such a fine soloist in this work, playing with the Czech Philharmonic whilst Talich was at his peak is a real pleasure. I have worked to try as much as possible to balance the tonal qualities of the earlier recording to match the technically superior British 1956 Miaskovsky recording - a work previously unknown to me but a pleasure to become acquainted with. AR

FULL PROGRAMME NOTES CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM
SARL Pristine Audio, Le Bourg, 24610 St. Meard de Gurçon, France - 'tel. (00) 33 593 821857
www.pristineclassical.com

COMPACT
DIGITAL AUDIO
#PASC 321

Rostropovich

PRISTINE
AUDIO
XR



Dvořák
Cello Concerto, Op. 104
Czech Philharmonic Orchestra
conductor Václav Talich

Miaskovsky
Cello Concerto, Op. 66
Philharmonia Orchestra
conductor Malcolm Sargent

Studio recordings, 1952 & 1956

