

GRIGORY SOKOLOV



In the 40 years since the 16-year-old Grigory Sokolov was awarded first prize at the International Tchaikovsky Piano Competition in Moscow in 1966, the world has been blessed with what one American critic recently called "*a kind of pianism, musicianship and artistry one thought had vanished forever*". Championed at a young age by Emil Gilels and a prominent figure on the Russian music scene since his early teens, Sokolov has gained an almost mythical status amongst music-lovers and pianophiles throughout the world. He is considered by many today to be the world's greatest living pianist. Ever since his first major piano recital in Leningrad at the age of 12, Sokolov has amazed everyone again and again with the enormous breadth of his repertoire and his huge, almost physical musical strength. Using little pedal, and thus superior finger-work, he draws from the concert grand an immense variety of sounds; he has an unlimited palette of colours, a spontaneous imagination and a magical control of line. His interpretations are poetic and highly individual, and his rhythmic freedom and elasticity of phrase are perhaps unequalled among pianists today.

Those who are used to his art are most particularly attracted by the naturalness of his performing manner, which is part of his artistic credo. His playing betrays no influence from past masters, his style and approach are entirely his own, and are completely unique. Whatever Grigory Sokolov performs, be it a Pavane of William Byrd, a Bach Fantasia, Chopin Mazurka or a Prelude of Ravel, it suddenly sounds completely new. Even a familiar Beethoven Sonata can be rediscovered as a new piece. But all this magic has its earthly roots: Sokolov knows more about a Steinway than many piano technicians, and before he sits down to play a strange instrument, he first examines its inner mechanics, taking it to pieces. He is used to studying for many hours every day, and even on the day of a concert, practices on stage for hours, "getting to know" the piano. That he prefers his CDs to be recorded live is not surprising, since he likes to capture the sacred moments of a real, live concert and avoid the sterile atmosphere of a studio.

Grigory Sokolov is a regular guest of the most prestigious concert halls and festivals of Europe. He has performed in London, Paris, Vienna, Berlin, Madrid, Salzburg, Munich, Rome, New York, and worked with many of the world's most prominent conductors including Myung-Whun Chung, Valery Gergiev, Trevor Pinnock, Neeme Järvi, Herbert Blomstedt, Sakari Oramo, Alexander Lazarev, Moshe Atzmon, etc. He has worked with orchestras including the New York Philharmonic, Montreal Symphony, Münchner Philharmoniker, Leipzig Gewandhaus, the Philharmonia and Amsterdam Concertgebouw. Sokolov has made a number of live recordings for Melodya and Opus 111 labels. These include works by Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, Chopin, Rachmaninoff, Prokofiev, Schubert, Schumann, Scriabin, and Tchaikovsky. The most recent publication is a DVD directed by Bruno Monsaingeon filming a recital of Grigory Sokolov at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées in Paris.

For more information about Grigory Sokolov please visit the website: www.amcmusic.com.

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DISCOGRAPHY

BACH	<i>The Art of the Fugue BWV 1080 - Partita n. 2 in C minor, BWV 826</i>	OPS 52 - 9116/17
BEETHOVEN	<i>Diabelli Variationes op. 120</i>	OPS 42 - 9106
BEETHOVEN	<i>Sonata n. 4 op. 7, 2 Rondòs, op. 51, Rondò op. 129</i>	OPS 30 - 63
BRAHMS	<i>Sonata n. 3 in f minor op. 5 - Ballades op. 10</i>	OPS 30 - 103
CHOPIN	<i>24 Preludes, op. 28</i>	OPS 30 - 9006
CHOPIN	<i>Sonata n. 2 op. 35 "Marche Funèbre" - 12 Etudes, op. 25</i>	OPS 30 - 83
SCHUBERT	<i>Sonata in G major op. 78 - Sonata in B flat major D. 960</i>	OPS 30 - 148
SCRIABIN/ PROKOFIEV/ RACHMANINOV	<i>Sonata n. 3 in f sharp minor op. 23 - Sonata n. 9, op. 68 "La Messe Noire" Sonata n. 8 in B flat major op. 84 Prelude n. 5 op. 23 n. 4</i>	OPS 40 - 9104
TCHAIKOVSKY	<i>Piano Concerto n. 1 op. 23</i>	BMG

DVD **Grigory Sokolov in Paris** A video made by Bruno Monsaingeon

BEETHOVEN	Sonatas op. 14 n. 1 & n. 2, Sonata op. 28 "Pastorale"
KOMITAS	Dances
PROKOFIEV	Sonata n. 7 op. 83