

ABSTRACT

Title of Document: A Survey of Russian Music for Piano: Absolute Music
and Program Music from Mussorgsky to Prokofiev

Mun Kyung Kim, Doctor of Musical Arts, 2013

Directed By: Professor Larissa Dedova
Piano Division, School of Music

In opposition to the European dominated classical music, several Russian composers including a group of five composers called “Mighty Five” began to spread the spirit of nationalism by applying their nationalistic folk idioms to their music¹. Many accomplished composers and pianists, referred to as the “Russian Piano School,” appeared and developed their own styles. Russian piano music started to gain international attention and soon after, it thrived not only in Russia but also in Western Europe. In the twentieth century, Russian composers significantly contributed to the Western piano music despite the unsettling effect of the Soviet revolution². Similar to the avant-garde movement around 1910, the modernist

¹ Stewart Gordon, *A History of Keyboard Literature* (New York: Shirmer Books, 1996), 424

² David Burge, *Twentieth-Century Piano Music* (Lanham: Scarecrow Press, 2004), 103.

movement introduced many experimental works into the musical repertoire and also led Russian piano music to flourish³.

This dissertation contains a research on nineteenth- and twentieth-century Russian piano music, specifically from Mussorgsky, whom I regard as the most original composer for the piano repertoire of the Russian Five, to Prokofiev, who represents twentieth century Russian modern music⁴. Through my three dissertation recitals, I presented works of celebrated Russian composers that are not only representative but also staples of the pianist's repertoire. Although the recitals presented various genres and styles between 1874 and 1942, they shared a source of inspiration and nationalistic characters that include profound nostalgic melodies, folk materials, and rich harmonic language. In addition, the dissertation shows stylistic and technical influences of extra musical ideas, such as image, story and theater work. It was a fascinating and remarkable experience to survey Russian composers who in addition to their own unique idioms combined nationalism with compositional trends like unique orchestral color, use of exotic harmonies and a variety of dynamic.

The pieces were presented in three recitals on November 2, 2011, September 28, 2012, and April 1, 2013. Compact disc recordings of these recitals are available in the Michelle Smith Performing Arts Library of the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center at the University of Maryland.

³ Peter Roberts, *Modernism in Russian Piano Music: Skriabin, Prokofiev, and Their Russian Contemporaries*, volume I (Bloomington: Indiana university Press, 1993), 3.

⁴ Stewart Gordon, *A History of Keyboard Literature* (New York: Shirmer Books, 1996), 440.

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2013

A SURVEY OF RUSSIAN MUSIC FOR PIANO: ABSOLUTE MUSIC AND
PROGRAM MUSIC FROM MUSORGSKY TO PROKOFIEV

By

Mun Kyung Kim

Dissertation submitted to the Faculty of the Graduate School of the
University of Maryland, College Park, in partial fulfillment
of the requirements for the degree of
Doctor of Musical Arts
2013

Advisory Committee:
Professor Larissa Dedova, Chair
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Professor Donald Manildi
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Doctor of Musical Arts Recital
Dissertation Recital 1

Mun Kyung Kim --- Piano
Ilya Sinaisky--- Second Piano

November 2, 2011
8:00 PM
Gildenhorn Recital Hall
Teacher: Professor Larissa Dedova

Six pieces from Romeo and Juliet: Ten Pieces for Piano, op. 75 (1937)
.....Sergei Prokofiev
(1891-1953)

- I. Folk Dance
- III. Menuet
- IV. Juliet, the Young Girl
- VI. Montagues and Capulets
- VII. Friar Laurence
- VIII. Mercuito

INTERMISSION

Piano Concerto No.3 in D minor, op. 30 (1909)----- Sergei Rachmaninoff
(1873-1943)

- I. Allegro ma non tanto
- II. Intermezzo
- III. Finale

Doctor of Musical Arts Recital
Dissertation Recital 2

Mun Kyung Kim ---Piano

September 28, 2012

5:00 PM

Gildenhorn Recital Hall

Teacher: Professor Larissa Dedova

Two Fairy Tales, op. 20 (1909)----- Nikolai Medtner
(1880-1951)

- I. Allegro con espressione
- II. "Campanella": Pesante. Minaccioso

Sonata No. 3, op. 23 (1897-98)----- Alexander Scriabin
(1872-1915)

- I. Dramatico
- II. Allegretto
- III. Andante
- IV. Presto con fuoco

INTERMISSION

Pictures at an Exhibition (1874)----- Modest Mussorgsky
(1839-1881)

- Promenade (I)
 - I. Gnomus
- Promenade (II)
 - II. Il vecchio Castello
- Promenade (III)
 - III. Les Tuileries (Dispute d'enfants après jeux)
- IV. Bydlo
- Promenade (IV)
 - V. Ballet of the Unhatched Chickens
 - VI. Samuel Goldenberg und Schmuyle
- Promenade (V)
 - VII. Limoges. Le marchè (La grande nouvelle)
 - VIII. Catacombæ (Sepulcrum romanum)
- Cum mortuis in lingua mortua
 - VIV. The Hut on Chicken's Legs (Baba Yaga)
 - X. The Heroic Gate (in the Imperial City of Kiev)

Doctor of Musical Arts Recital
Dissertation Recital 3

Mun Kyung Kim ---Piano

April 1, 2012

5:00 PM

Gildenhorn Recital Hall

Teacher: Professor Larissa Dedova

Dumka: Russian rustic scene, op. 59 (1886)-----Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
(1840-1893)

Variations on a Theme of Corelli, op. 42 (1931)-----Sergei Rachmaninoff
(1873-1943)

Theme: Andante

Var. 1: Poco piu mosso

Var. 2: L'istesso tempo

Var. 3: Tempo di Minuetto

Var. 4: Andante

Var. 5: Allegro (ma non tanto)

Var. 6: L'istesso tempo

Var. 7: Vivace

Var. 8: Adagio misterioso

Var. 9: Un poco piu mosso

Var. 10: Allegro scherzando

Var. 11: Allegro vivace

Var. 12: L'istesso tempo

Var. 13: Agitato

Intermezzo

Var. 14: Andante (come prima)

Var. 15: L'istesso tempo

Var. 16: Allegro vivace

Var. 17: Meno mosso

Var. 18: Allegro con brio

Var. 19: Piu mosso. Agitato

Var. 20: Piu mosso

Coda: Andante

INTERMISSION

Five Preludes, op. 16 (1895)----- Alexander Scriabin
(1872-1915)

- I. Andante
- II. Allegro
- III. Andante cantabile
- IV. Lento
- V. Allegretto

Sonata No. 7, op. 83 (1942)----- Serge Prokofiev
(1891-1953)

- I. Allegro inquieto
- II. Andante caloroso
- III. Precipitato

Recital 1 CD – Track Listings

Serge Prokofiev

Six pieces from Romeo and Juliet: Ten Pieces for Piano, op. 75 (1937)

- [1] Folk Dance
- [2] Menuet
- [3] Juliet, the Young Girl
- [4] Mantagues and Capulets
- [5] Friar Laurence
- [6] Mercuito

Sergei Rachmaninoff

Piano Concerto No. 3 in d minor, op. 30 (1909)

- [7] Allegro ma non tanto
- [8] Intermezzo
- [9] Finale

Recital 2 CD – Track Listings

Nikolai Medtner

Two Fairy Tales, op.20 (1909)

- [1] Allegro con espressione
- [2] “Campanella”: Pesante. Minaccioso

Alexander Scriabin

Sonata No. 3, op. 23 (1897-1898)

- [3] Dramatico
- [4] Allegretto
- [5] Andante
- [6] Presto con fuoco

Modest Mussorgsky

Pictures at an Exhibition (1874)

- [7] Promenade (I)
- [8] Gnomus
- [9] Promenade (II)
- [10] Il vecchio Castello
- [11] Promenade (III)
- [12] Les Tuileries (Dispute d'enfants après jeux)
- [13] Bydlo
- [14] Promenade (IV)
- [15] Ballet of the Unhatched Chickens
- [16] Samuel Goldenberg und Schmuyle
- [17] Promenade (V)
- [18] Limoges. Le marchè (La grande nouvelle)
- [19] Catacombæ (Sepulcrum romanum)
- [20] Cum mortuis in lingua mortua
- [21] The Hut on Chicken's Legs (Baba Yaga)
- [22] The Heroic Gate (in the Imperial City of Kiev)

Recital CD 3 - Track Listings

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

[1] Dumka: Russian rustic scene, op. 59 (1886)

Sergei Rachmaninoff

[2]-[24] Variations on a Theme of Corelli, op. 42 (1931)

Alexander Scriabin

Five Preludes, op. 16 (1895)

[25] Andante

[26] Allegro

[27] Andante cantabile

[28] Lento

[29] Allegretto

Serge Prokofiev

Sonata No. 7, op. 83 (1942)

[30] Allegro inquieto

[31] Andante caloroso

[32] Precipitato

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