

Prokofiev - Violin Concertos (1990)

Written by bluesever

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Concerto No. 1 for Violin and Orchestra in D Major, Op. 19 1. *I. Andantino; Andante assai* 9:21 2. *II. Scherzo: Vivacissimo* 3:37 3. *III. Moderato* 7:58 Concerto No. 2 for Violin and Orchestra in G minor, Op. 63 4. *I. Allegro moderato* 10:26 5. *II. Andante assai* 9:32 6. *III. Allegro ben marcato* 6:01 Isaac Stern – violin The Philadelphia Orchestra Eugene Ormandy – conductor (CBS Masterworks – Great Performances 98)

What I love about Prokofieff's concerti are their connection to the musicality of each one. What I mean by that is that the solo instrument is woven into the melodic event of the piece itself instead of the orchestra being an accompaniment. Stern and Ormandy have collaborated for many recordings and this one rates among their mesmerizing best.

What is it about the Russian composers that have this brooding and melancholy feel to their works? Prokofieff's towering symphonies and concerti are so emotionally strong and vibrant and telling but still the underlying melancholy and no more beautifully expressed than in these two concertos. The way Maestros Stern and Ormandy weave their parts together is so wonderful. So soft and then so powerful.

If you want to hear Prokofieff at his most somber and telling buy this recording. As the other reviewer said, 'lay back and let it sink' into your soul (that's my addition) because that is where Prokofieff leads you. Wonderful recording --- Charles Emmett "Chas in the boonies" (Oroville, California (the boonies))

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