The Art Of Leonid Kogan CD 10 - Tchaikovsky: Violin Concerto – Meditation (2014)



Violin Concerto in D, Op.35 *1. I. Allegro Moderato (18:08) 2. II. Canzonetta: Andante (6:18) 3. III. Finale: Allegro vivacissimo (9:16) ------ 4. Meditation in d (from 'Souvenir d'un lieu cher' Op.42) (7:47)* Leonid Kogan (violin) Orchestre de la Societe des Concerts du Conservatoire Constantin Silvestri (conductor)

Kogan did stereo remake of Tchaikovsky concerto with Silvestri in 1959. Two years earlier mono version was recorded with the same orchestra, this time under André Vandernoot. I don't find these earlier versions as successful, and I think this is partly due to Vandernoot's rather uninspired conducting. Nevertheless, I'm pleased to be reacquainted with the Kogan/Silvestri collaboration, which I hadn't listened to for some time. In ideal sound, the recording captures Kogan's vibrant tonal projection and stunning digital dexterity. His flawless intonation is another plus. His sophisticated slides and position changes, tastefully applied, are used to enhance expressive effects. This has to be one of the finest outings the concerto has had: a potent mix of bravura virtuosity and rapt intensity. The Meditation in D minor makes a pleasing filler, thoughtfully nuanced and poetically engaged.

There's an even finer recording of the Tchaikovsky Concerto, set down in October 1950 with the USSR State Radio Symphony Orchestra conducted by Vassily Nebolsin in which, like Heifetz, Kogan employs the Leopold Auer embellishments at the two climactic points in the first movement. It can be found in a 10 CD Historic Russian Archives Brilliant Box, dedicated to the artist (93030). That set is well-worth seeking out not only for this, but also for the other gems to be found therein. --- Stephen Greenbank, musicweb-international.com

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