



The Glory of Russian Masterworks

Dr. Rachel Franklin

Thursday, February 06, 2025 - 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. ET

Session 5, Feb 6: Dmitri Shostakovich and his colleagues

Despite the fearsome pressure of the Stalinist state, Dmitri Shostakovich was prolific, producing a wide range of symphonic works, operas, concertos, solo works, choral and chamber music for the 20th century canon. However, being promoted internationally by the Soviet State as the USSR's most celebrated composer meant he had a permanent target on his back. After being viciously attacked by Stalin at the height of his career, Shostakovich spent the rest of his life walking a terrifying thin line between being an apparently ideologically-pure Soviet composer, and secretly expressing his own artistic truths to those who knew how to decode them. His fellow Soviet composers Dmitri Kabalevsky and Aram Khachaturian managed to keep themselves somewhat safer by writing more accessible, less challenging music. We'll hear a selection of their masterpieces including symphonies, ballets and operas, and also film music by Prokofiev.

Works explored

Dmitri Shostakovich, 1906-1975

***Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk* (Katerina Izmailova), Op. 29, 1933**

- Galina Vishnevskaya in 1966 film, chorus and orchestra of the Shevchenko Opera and Ballet Theater, Kiev. Conductor Konstantin Simeonov.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IVbbRQgQall>

1992 film with Vishnevskaya dubbing actress

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U-GmQvUVmio&list=PL8FE30311C997852A>

Symphony No. 10, Op. 93 2nd, movt, 1953 premiere

- Evgeny Mravinsky, Leningrad Philharmonic

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sebg-tUpI9g>

Cello sonata no. 1, Op. 40, 1934

- Rostropovich, Shostakovich

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vNXgYYmjL6Q>

Sergei Prokofiev, 1891-1953

"Alexander Nevsky" Mosfilm, 1938,

- Director: Sergei Eisenstein

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gq4PaJfod4w>

Dmitri Kabalevsky, 1904-1987

Titles from TV series *Masquerade Party*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=owpsw5l4t2M>

Galop, from *The Comedians* suite, Op. 26, 1938/39

- Eugene Ormandy, Philadelphia Orchestra

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h3bdAPfJw7Y>

Colas Breugnon, Op. 24, overture from opera, 1938

- Malmö Symphony Orchestra, Darell Ang

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T02hS8gykAY>

Aram Khachaturian, 1903-1978

Violin concerto, 1940

Sergey Khachatryan, Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra, Eduard Topchyan

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8FxyIMnHW8Q>

Spartacus, Adagio from ballet, 1954

- Anna Nikulina, Mikhail Lobukhin

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JN8gkmla6yA>

Gayane, Sabre Dance from ballet, 1942 premier

- State Opera & Ballet Theater of Armenia

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G1m8jbZkhiQ>