

BIOGRAPHY

Evgeni Mikhailov – pianist of outstanding personality. The winnings at prestigious competitions such as I Scriabin International piano competition in Russia, I G.Ericson International piano competition in Sweden have amazed with unanimity of jury and audience. After it E.Mikhailov became a prizewinner of competitions in Italy and Switzerland but he had got sensational success in 2002 at I Rachmaninoff International piano competition in USA where he became a laureate of I prize.

E.Mikhailov has performed with orchestras and conductors such as Deutsche Symphonie-Orchester Berlin/V.Ashkenazy, Russian National Orchestra/M.Pletnev, St Petersburg Academic Philharmonic Orchestra/R.Martynov, National Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra of Montevideo/K.Kalmar, Mexico city Philharmonic Orchestra/J.Mester and others.

E.Mikhailov has performed over 300 concerts in many places of world – from South America and USA to China. He has appeared at prestigious venues such as Civic Auditorium in Los-Angeles, Berlin Philharmonic Hall, Concert Hall "G.Verdi" in Milan, Salle Cortot in Paris, City Hall in Hong Kong, CRR Concert Hall in Istanbul etc. He is also a regular guest at many international festivals in Germany ("Berlin-Moskau"), Switzerland (Internationale Musikfestwochen Luzern), Norway (Bergen Festival), Russia ("Kremlin musical"/N.Petrov), Austria, Sweden, USA and others.

Special field of Mikhailov's interests is concert tours for Russian audience. His performances in Great and Small Halls of Moscow conservatory, Chaikovsky Hall in Moscow, Great Hall of St Petersburg Philharmony have become a valuable tradition. These are not only successful recitals but also concerts with orchestras under baton of masters like M.Gorenstein, N.Alexeev, V.Ziva, S.Skripka and many others. He received outstanding reviews in articles of newspapers "Musical review", "Culture", magazines "Piano", "Musical Life", "Musical Academy", and also in foreign press - "Piano" (Great Britain), "Los Angeles Times" (USA), "Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung" (Germany), "Kaertner Tageszeitung" (Austria), "Observer" (Sweden) etc.

He has a wide range of activity: he conducted the seminars, masterclasses and opened lessons in many cities of Russia, in USA, South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland too. E.Mikhailov is famous teacher name in Russia: many his students are laureates of Russian and international competitions and have a concert activity, and graduates are teaching in different places of Russia and abroad.

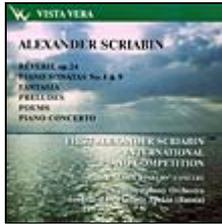
"Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung" (Germany): *"The capital of Mikhailov is incontestable musical talent, musicality, which fills with intensity each instant, and it's difficult to the audience to resist its charm"*.

"Piano" (Great Britain): *"As soon as he touched the keyboard one noticed how unusually fine the quality and refinement of his sound was"*.

"Expressen" (Sweden): *"The culmination point of festival became the fabulous performance of Schnittke' Concert for piano and string orchestra by young pianist Evgeni Mikhailov"*.

Paul Badura-Skoda: *"E.Mikhailov is an excellent pianist demonstrating bright emotionality and depth of interpretation. He is a brilliant performer of Scriabin's music, his recording of Scriabin's sonatas is outstanding"*. ("Il Cittadino", Italy)

ALEXANDER SCRIBIN = Sonatas, Piano Concerto and other works played by winners of the First International Scriabin Piano Competition in Moscow - Vista Vera



ALEXANDER SCRIBIN = Reverie, Op. 24; Sonata No. 9, Op. 68; Five Preludes, Op. 74; Two Poems, Op. 69; Prelude in B Major, Op. 2, No. 2; Two Preludes, Op. 27; Fantasia, Op. 28; Sonata No. 4, Op. 30; Piano Concerto in F-sharp Minor, Op. 20 - Tanel Joamets, piano (Sonata No. 9; Five Preludes)/Yuka Kobayashi, piano (Two Poems)/ Karen Komienko (Preludes; Fantasia)/Dmitri Kaprin, piano (Sonata No. 4)/ Eugeni Mikhailov, piano (Concerto)/ State Symphony

Orchestra/Vladimir Ponkin (Reverie; Concerto)

Vista Vera VVCD-96010, 71:12 (Distrib. Albany) **:**

From 8 February 1995, we have the various winners of the First International Scriabin Piano Competition, given in the Great Hall of the Moscow Conservatory. *Reverie*, Op. 24, is Scriabin's first orchestral composition, which I first heard on a Capitol disc with Eugene Goossens. Its languid harmonies set the tone for much of this music, since Scriabin always inhabits the world of poems, dreams, and hazy, erotic, inner states. The hard patina of the various pianists makes them sound virtually the same, although several pieces, like the Op. 68 Sonata and the Op. 28 *Fantasia*, are knottier pieces than some of the others, which can be fiery but terse.

Tanel Joamets (b. 1968) is the oldest of the young artists on this disc; the youngest is Dmitri Kaprin (b. 1977). Joamets offers the so-called *Black Mass Sonata* as an extended moment of savage ecstasies. Third Prize winner Karen Komienko (b. 1974) brings a superheated temperament to the Op. 28 Fantasy, which often resembles the liquid fire in the D-sharp Minor *Etude*, the Horowitz staple, cross-fertilized by Chopin's F Minor *Ballade*. Second Prize winner Kaprin plays the delicate Sonata No. 4 as a study in touch and the liberation of both the trill and the dissonance. The piano does all but melt amidst the implosive embers that saturate this music. First Prize winner Mikhailov (b. 1973) performs the youthful Scriabin Piano Concerto, championed by Neuhaus, Solomon, Richter, Ashkenazy, and Ugorski. An extended, rippling nocturne, the Concerto's style hints at Rachmaninov, Scriabin's contemporary and a severe critic of what he later thought were Scriabin's too radical experiments. The third movement possesses the most flavorful colors, agitated figures that keep moving to a graduated apotheosis, often with a darkly Flemish affect that reminds me of D'Indy. Mikhailov and Ponkin make lush work of the whole affair, and the audience yells its unqualified approbation.

-- Gary Lemco

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