



05/11-(5)

Peter I. Tchaikovsky
(1840-1893)

Eugene Onegin
(Version for Concert Performance)

State Symphony Orchestra of Russia
Yurlov State Academic Choir Cappella of Russia
Soloists
Mark Gorenstein, cond.

2 CDs at the price of 1

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Russian Soul

It was Tchaikovsky's first opera to a text by Alexander Pushkin, and it immediately brought him a masterpiece: *Eugene Onegin* was heard for the first time on the Moscow Conservatory's small stage in 1878. Pushkin's text and Tchaikovsky's music appealed to the Russian soul, and today the work is performed in prestigious opera houses throughout the world. The Russian State Symphony Orchestra under the conductor Mark Gorenstein now performs this opera in Moscow's Tchaikovsky Concert Hall in a concert version featuring outstanding singers – an impressive live documentation and at the same time a fine visiting card for this great orchestra.

Personal Links

Although from two different generations, Pushkin and Tchaikovsky are related in many ways. The composer's parents were contemporaries of the poet and enjoyed direct contact with him. Tchaikovsky's sister lived in the building in which a few decades before the poet had created his works while lying on the billiard table!

Road Opera

Tchaikovsky began his composition of the opera with enthusiasm; the story of *Eugene Onegin* had long interested him. An unhappy love affair dampened his creative energies for a longer period of time. It was first during a subsequent foreign trip that he completed the work. A part of it was initially premiered on the tiny conservatory stage. The opera has continued to enjoy top billing to the present day.

Performance Worlds

With its some 120 members the State Symphony Orchestra numbers among Russia's leading orchestral ensembles. Its many recordings with the great Evgeny Svetlanov are unforgettable. Today Mark Gorenstein leads the orchestra and travels with it to the great concert halls around the globe. During past years the orchestra has produced a number of top-quality live concert recordings that now will be released in the "MDG Live" series.