

MOSCOW STATE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Critical acclaim for artist

2010 U.S. Tour

"The MSSO might well be the world's least-heralded great orchestra....

The bass players were bruisers who displayed such angry -- if extraordinarily skillful -- ferocity that had their instruments been loaded with live ammunition, not I nor anyone else would now be around to report back on this concert....

The concert began with Tchaikovsky's normally touristy showpiece, "Capriccio Italien." This time it meant something. Kogan ripped off Tchaikovsky's false face, leaving behind searing, fraught music. The intensity was a shock.

Even Bruch's Violin Concerto became something far more than a vehicle for all-purpose romantic gushing. Koh, who has always impressed me the most in modern music, here gave a throbbing reading that brought to mind the passionate, Russian fiddling of real personality...

With these revelatory Russians, a free seismic test is part of the bargain."

Los Angeles Times

"The orchestra provided a sensitive accompaniment to the Prokofiev concerto, though the performance was all about the pianist. Denk's full piano tone was apparent from the opening bars. The piano part became progressively more complex as it went along, yet Denk made it look easy. He was clearly in complete control of the tone and the dynamics of the piano. The cadenza was so elaborate that was hard to believe that it was just one player. If the first movement was defined by grand sweeps, the second featured boundless energy; in fact, the piano appeared never to stop.

The intermezzo was like a sardonic march for the dead, propelled by the lower winds. The finale opened with a tight unison between the piano and the orchestra. The coordination between the piano and the orchestra was especially impressive here. The long cadenza gave the impression of a complex chorale elaboration. It was a marvelous performance of a very exciting piece....

The audience was on its feet before the final note and was rewarded with two encores, both by Fritz Kreisler: Marche miniature Viennoise and Syncopation.

Many fine orchestras come to the stage of the Kravis Center. Few, however, combine impeccable playing with satisfying programming, as does the Moscow State Symphony Orchestra. We were uplifted by the performance, and look forward to the orchestra's return."

Palm Beach Daily News

"The opening Capriccio Italien by Tchaikovsky was incredible. The traditional power of late Romantic Period Russian classical music and Tchaikovsky's signature lighthearted woodwind arrangements combined for an enjoyable, uplifting experience that brought tears to many eyes. Ok, maybe that was just me, but judging by the response from the audience, I was not the only one who enjoyed it.

Moscow State Symphony Orchestra

PAGE 2

The second piece, Piano Concerto in A minor by Grieg was darker, but no less impressive. The second movement, the Adagio, was beautiful. Listening to it feels like floating on a cloud. American pianist, Jeremy Denk, joined the orchestra for the concerto and performed with passion and gusto....

...the level of talent in the orchestra was utterly astonishing....

The audience went crazy with thunderous applause, whistles and cheers of "Bravo!", and a standing ovation after each piece. As a reward for our enthusiasm, we were treated to three short encore performances."

Louisville.com

2001 U.S. Tour

"I wonder how many times the Moscow State have played Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony, yet it can still engender that surge of adrenalin to screw up the excitement in the outer movements, whiplash timpani and searing trumpets crowning the climatic moments."

– Yorkshire Post

"The orchestra [The Moscow State Symphony] has a dark, burnished sound that Music Director Pavel Kogan exploited to the fullest extent in Shostakovich's "Symphony No. 10," which concluded the evening. Most exceptional was a violin section that produced a deep, rich sound on the lower strings. This played perfectly to the generally somber mood of this long work."

- Telegram&Gazette

"Tchaikovsky's music is always an emotional roller coaster ride, and the orchestra, under its longtime conductor, Pavel Kogan was up to every nuance from the almost imperceptible quiet passages to the fullest, overwhelming climaxes... The articulation was immaculate and the inner voices were always apparent under Kogan's sure hand. The sound was controlled but intense and energetic, moving the listener along from one emotional mountain to the next."

-The Daily News

"Russian orchestras are known for their brashness, clipped phrasing and ear-popping declamations, and there was no scarcity of those qualities at this concert... More than any conductor in memory, Kogan looks like the music he conducts. With this group's discipline and size, it's easy for him to sculpt and shape in any way he chooses, and he does so tastefully and with digital precision."

-The Birmingham News

"The 10th's initial somber, ominous tones resonated through the massive string section, evolving alternately into some rather starkly dissonant passages relieved by moments of a refined but not completely comfortable lyricism. The orchestra [The Moscow State Symphony] easily recognized the composer's interest in the work of Mahler with its robust approach to the larger-than-life personality within the work... Conductor Pavel Kogan maintained a close watch on the development of the melodic fragments in the woodwinds, leaning forward and gracefully guiding both the seasoned and the younger musicians in the multi-generational orchestra through the 50-minute work. Though the juxtaposition can be jarring, the final movement's sudden, almost giddy, change of attitude was handled with a great deal of spirit, tempered by a dignified forthrightness that characterized the program's other major piece as well."

-Portland Press Herald

Moscow State Symphony Orchestra

PAGE 3

“A Russian orchestra playing an all-Russian program is a grand tradition that audiences never tire of, judging from the enthusiastic reaction to Start: Symphony Orchestra at Ruth Eckerd Hall.” *-Saint Petersburg Times*

About Pavel Kogan

“Kogan inspired generous response from the orchestra [The Utah Symphony]. Emotional impact was achieved with well-blended tone, flexible tempos and his ability to exact a wide dynamic range from the musicians.” *-The Utah Tribune*

“Kogan gave a wondrous performance of the Scriabin symphony. The work overflows with a restless energy that the conductor captured magnificently.” *-Desert Morning News*