

Kiril Petrovich Kondrashin 1914 – 1981 was internationally the best-known conductor of the Soviet Union and also the most prominent one to emigrate from that country. He was known for vigorous and solid performances of a wide repertoire, particularly the Russian masters. In 1960 he was named artistic director of the Moscow Philharmonic, and as such participated in another piano concerto blockbuster recording with a U.S. piano star, the great Prokofiev Third Concerto recording for Mercury with Byron Janis, still considered by many the greatest interpretation of that brilliant work on disc. Kondrashin's performances were bright and dramatic, tending to programmatic interpretations that commentators saw as the legacy of his theater career. He was the U.S.S.R.'s finest interpreter of Mahler, leading all the symphonies with unusual restraint and with the expressive and dramatic qualities of the music seemingly enhanced by understatement. He left the Moscow Philharmonic in 1975, turning to guest conducting. As a result of high demand outside the U.S.S.R., he decided to emigrate in 1978. He was named permanent conductor of the Amsterdam Concertgebouw in 1979, and immediately began making a notable series of recordings with them, but died in that city only two years later.



Balakirev

Symphony No. 1 in C major

Kiril Kondrashin
Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra



Mastered in DSD256

I. Shishkin: Expanse (1883)

The Symphony No. 1 in C major by Mily Balakirev is scored for 3 flutes (the third doubling piccolo), oboe, English horn, 3 clarinets (switching between B flat and A instruments), 2 bassoons, 4 horns, 2 trumpets, 3 trombones, tuba, timpani, triangle, cymbals, snare drum, bass drum, 2 harps, first and second violins, violas, cellos and double basses. Balakirev revised the symphony but the publisher Zimmerman does not mark the printing of the second version as different and scores and parts of the two versions have gotten mixed up sometimes. One way to tell them apart is that the first version has rehearsal figures going up to 15, 10, 7, 16 but in the second version they go to 26, 14, 14, 26. The more obvious textual changes occur in the third movement The

piece is in four movements:
Largo - Allegro vivo
Scherzo. Vivo - Poco
meno mosso - Tempo I
Andante
Finale. Allegro moderato

Sketching began in 1864 but the first performance, with Balakirev himself conducting, did not take place until 1898. Yevgeny Svetlanov was the first conductor to record it, with the USSR Symphony Orchestra. In December 1955, Sir Thomas Beecham and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra made the first stereo recording in the U.K.



Balakirev

Symphony No. 1 in C major

Kiril Kondrashin Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra

1. Largo - Allegro vivo 12:09
 2. Scherzo. Vivo - Poco meno mosso - Tempo I 7:20
 3. Andante 12:29
 4. Finale. Allegro moderato 8:02
- Total Time 40:00

Transferred from a 15ips 2-track tape
Date of Recording: 1961 Recorded by Meloydia



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