

# Tchaikovsky Symphony Orchestra

Internationally recognised as one of Russia's most prestigious and versatile orchestras, the Moscow Radio Symphony Orchestra was founded in 1930. Until the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the Orchestra was the official orchestra of the Soviet Radio Network.

Alexander Orlov became the Orchestra's first director in 1930 and is credited with developing a diverse and voluminous repertoire. From 1937 to the present, a series of outstanding directors have contributed to the Orchestra's distinctive artistic style and personality: Nikolay Glovanov from 1937-1953, Alexander Gauk from 1953-1961, and Gennady Rozhdestvensky from 1961-1974. In 1974, Vladimir Fedoseyev assumed leadership, and turned the Orchestra into one of Russia's most widely acclaimed ensembles.

Over the years, a distinguished group of composers, guest conductors and soloists have played an integral role in the development of the Moscow Radio Symphony Orchestra: Stokowski, Mravinsky, Cluytens, Sebastian, Abendrot, Feitelberg, Zecchi and Sanderling are among the artists who have led the ensemble. Emil Gilels, Yury Bashmet, Victor Tretjakov, Gidon Kremer, Misha Maisky, Oleg Meisenberg, Lisa Leonskaja and more contemporary musicians (among them Maxim Vengerov, Vadim Repin, and Mikhail Pletnev) have supported the Orchestra from the very beginning of their careers as musicians.

In 1993 the Orchestra was renamed by the decree of the Russian Ministry of Culture and became Tchaikovsky Symphony Orchestra of Moscow Radio. Awarding the Orchestra the name of this great Russian composer was recognition of the Orchestra's role in promoting much of the music written by Tchaikovsky.

The Tchaikovsky Symphony Orchestra traditionally participates in the legendary international Tchaikovsky Competition and also in the musical evenings which take place in the museums of Peter Tchaikovsky in Klin and Votkinsk.

The Tchaikovsky Symphony Orchestra has given premieres of the new works of such prominent composers as Shostakovich, Khachaturian, Miaskovsky, Prokofiev, Gliere, Sviridov, Boris Tchaikovsky and Gubaidulina. The Orchestra also premiered works of the best composers from the former Soviet Union such as Taktakishvili, Toradze, Oganesyanyan, Melikov, Barkauskas, Tormis and many more.

Engagements abroad have included appearances in London, Tokyo, Vienna, Paris, Milan, Munich, Frankfurt, Geneva, Stockholm, Rome, Oslo, Prague and many other major cities.

The Tchaikovsky Symphony Orchestra is a frequent participant in numerous festivals including Beethoven Festival (Bonn), Bruckner Festival (Linz), Mozart Festival (Salzburg), Menuhin Festival (Gstaad), Klang Bogen (Vienna), Russian Concerts (Paris, London), Rachmaninov Festivals (Los Angeles), Carinthian Summer (Villach), Millennium (Athens), Scriabin Festival (Graz), Festival of Modern Music (Paris), Festival of Prokofiev and Russian Modern Music (Germany), Jeunesse Festivals (Vienna), Grieg Festival (Bergen) and festivals in Hong Kong, Rome, Bregenz. Only last season, the Tchaikovsky Symphony Orchestra performed at the prestigious festival of Shostakovich's music (Zurich) and the world's largest arts festival in Edinburgh. They have also performed at Colmar International Festival in France, Gstaad Festival, Rheingau and Baden-Baden. In 1990 the Moscow Radio Symphony Orchestra was the first Russian orchestra to perform at the Salzburg Festival in honour of the Festival's 70th anniversary.

For nearly 30 years, the Tchaikovsky Symphony Orchestra, as one of the best orchestras of the country, has been headed by Vladimir Fedoseyev. These years of alliance between the Tchaikovsky Symphony Orchestra and Vladimir Fedoseyev reflect what the Maestro has inherited from his predecessors. His interpretations are famous for their depth, artistic passion, unusual emotional intensity, great sense of the national character of the music, deep penetration of their composers' conceptions and reflection of the characteristic features of their style. Vladimir Fedoseyev has created the specific melodious emotional style of the Orchestra which has made it distinct from others and earned it worldwide acclaim.

Fedoseyev's fatherly attitude to the musicians of the Orchestra, his aspiration to make each of them a high level musician, has allowed many of the Orchestra's musicians to perform as soloists, both with the Tchaikovsky Symphony Orchestra and other Russian and foreign symphony orchestras.

Since 1997, the Tchaikovsky Symphony Orchestra and Vladimir Fedoseyev have revived a generous historical tradition of organising public season-ticket symphonic concerts in Moscow with a season ticket for six concerts costing between two and ten US dollars.

Breaking with the tradition of performing only Russian music abroad, Maestro Vladimir Fedoseyev and the Tchaikovsky Symphony Orchestra have begun, in recent times, to perform music by Beethoven, Brahms, Bruckner, Mahler and Wagner.

Vladimir Fedoseyev and the Tchaikovsky Symphony Orchestra have recorded extensively for a variety of labels including Ariola, JVC, Musica, Philips, Pony Canyon, Sony Classical and Relief. Among the Orchestra's recordings released in many countries are its critically acclaimed renditions of Mussorgsky's *Boris Godunov*, all of Tchaikovsky's symphonies, all Shostakovich's symphonies, *Swan Lake* and *The Nutcracker*. The Orchestra has also recorded a considerable amount of opera and ballet. The Orchestra's recording of Rimsky Korsakov's *May Night* was awarded the Gold Orpheus Prize by the French National Recording Academy. The Orchestra's active artistic life that has continued for almost 75 years, never stops even for a day. In summer 2003 the Tchaikovsky Symphony Orchestra took part in the celebrations devoted to the 300th birthday of St Petersburg in the autumn, and the Orchestra also performed in the best halls of Great Britain and Austria, followed by concert tours in the spring of 2004 to Japan and China. In the 2004-2005 season, the Orchestra toured to Spain, Greece, Switzerland, Austria, Germany and Holland. In the 2005-2006 season the Orchestra celebrated its 75th anniversary, performing in the best concert halls of Europe.

The Orchestra's recent performances under the baton of Vladimir Fedoseyev include a tour of China and Moscow, world premieres of *St Matthew Passion* by Bishop Illarion in Moscow and Rome, performances at the 50th festival of Peotr I Tchaikovsky in Votkinsk - his home town, a performance of Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* with Vienna's Singverein Choir, devoted to the 50th anniversary of the Maestro's artistic activity and the 150th anniversary of the Choir. And Vladimir Fedoseyev's unique project *Sunday Mass* enabled the audiences to enter the profound and lofty world of spiritual compositions of Russian and foreign composers - JS Bach (*Christmas cantatas*), Mozart (*Te Deum*), Dvorak (*Stabat mater*), Bizet (*Te Deum*) and A Grechaninov (*Liturgia Domestica by St John Chrysostom*).

The Orchestra's recent performances under the baton of Vladimir Fedoseyev on tour of China and in Moscow with famous Lang-Lang, world premiers of "St. Matthew Passion" by Bishop Hilarion in Moscow and Rome, performances at the 50<sup>th</sup> festival of Peotr I. Tchaikovsky in his hometown Votkinsk, triumphant completion of the cycle «Aimez vous Brahms?», international tour to the UK and unique Fedoseyev's project "Sunday Mass".

The most important music events of the forthcoming season include a concert "Beethoven-GALA" dedicated to Herbert von Karajan with participation of Vadim Repin and Denis Matsuev, a premiere Vladimir Rubin's "Guardian angel", a new scenic version of Alexei Rybnikov's opera-mystery "Liturgiya oglashennih", a solo concert of Luciano D'Intino (Italy), a concert dedicated to David Oistrakh with compositions of Shostakovich and Schnittke and a new Maestro's project "Legends of love" – 4 musical and literary poems with participation of dramatic actors and soloist of the world opera scene.

The concerts of the 11<sup>th</sup> season of the subscription "Music for everybody" will be conducted by Michel Plasson (France), Shao En (China), Mikhail Damev (Switzerland), Dietfried Bernet (Austria) and, of course, Vladimir Fedoseyev.

On the threshold of the year of France in Russia the orchestra prepares a number of great French-Russian projects in Moscow, St.-Petersbourg and Paris, among them there are a dramatic legends "Damnation of Faust" by Berlioz, an organ concert with participation of Edgar Krapp etc.

The 2008/9 season Tchaikovsky Symphony Orchestra is going to represent again young Russian musicians at the 9<sup>th</sup> Festival of Young Soloists "Orpheum" in Switzerland, to make a tour on Japan, France, Italy, Austria, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, Brasilia, Argentine, Mexico, Latvia and the Russian cities.

At the beginning of 2008 Warner Classical & Jazz and Lontano issued a recording of all Brahms' symphonies performed by Tchaikovsky Symphony Orchestra conducted by Vladimir Fedoseyev.