

NAXOS

SHOSTAKOVICH: The Execution of Stepan Razin

8.557812

This disc of music by one of the twentieth century's greatest symphonists ranges from the rarely heard *Five Fragments* of 1935, experimental "practice runs" for the *Symphony No. 4*, to one of the composer's last orchestral works, the vibrant symphonic poem *October*, which commemorates the 50th anniversary of the 1917 Revolution. *The Execution of Stepan Razin*, composed in 1964, is based on the 17th century Cossack rebel and folk-hero who led an unsuccessful revolt against Tsar Alexis I, father of Peter the Great. Shostakovich's energetic score displays a mastery of orchestral and choral sonorities, alternating powerful climaxes and heartfelt evocations of Russian folk-song.



Dmitry
SHOSTAKOVICH
(1906-1975)

The Execution of Stepan Razin

1 The Execution of Stepan Razin, symphonic poem for baritone soloist, mixed chorus and orchestra, Op. 119	28:37	3 Moderato	1:21
2 October, Op. 131	13:10	4 Andante	1:02
		5 Largo	3:48
		6 Moderato	2:51
		7 Allegretto	1:33

Charles Robert Austin, Bass-baritone • Seattle Symphony Choral
Abraham Kaplan, associate conductor for choral activities
Seattle Symphony • Gerard Schwarz

Recorded in June 1996 at the Seattle Center Opera House (track 1);
in February 2000 at the S. Mark Taper Foundation Auditorium, Benaroya Hall, Seattle (track 2);
and in February 2005 at the S. Mark Taper Foundation Auditorium, Benaroya Hall, Seattle (tracks 3-7).
Producers: Adam Stern (tracks 1 and 2); Christian Knapp, Seattle Symphony Associate Conductor,
and Albert G. Swanson, Seattle Symphony Recording Engineer (tracks 3-7)
Engineer: Albert G. Swanson, Seattle Symphony Recording Engineer • Editor: Dmitriy Lipay
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Cover image: *Stepan Razin* by Vasily Ivanovich Surikov (1848-1916) (Russian State Museum / akg-images)

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Playing Time
52:22



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