

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 |
| | | 4 Andante | 1:02 |
| | | 5 Largo | 3:48 |
| 2 October, Op. 131 | 13:10 | 6 Moderato | 2:51 |
| | | 7 Allegretto | 1:33 |

Charles Robert Austin, Bass-baritone • Seattle Symphony Chorale
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

Publisher: Muzyka/Boosey & Hawkes/G. Schirmer • Booklet notes: Steven Lowe

Cover image: *Stepan Razin* by Vasily Ivanovich Surikov (1848-1916) (Russian State Museum / akg-images)

