

Here is a recording of rarities on two counts. Not only is the music of Kryukov, Vasilenko, Frid, Krein and Bogdanov-Berezovsky little known outside of Russia, but viola sonatas are as welcome as they are scarce. Romantic lyricism, the influence of Scriabin and Shostakovich, Russian emotionalism and a touch of French sensibility – each threads its way through these engaging works which exploit the viola's rich tone. Igor Fedotov and Leonid Vechkhayzer here make their Naxos débuts, while Gary Hammond can also be heard on Naxos's recording of music by Lucien Lambert Sr and Jr (8.559037).

SOVIET RUSSIAN VIOLA MUSIC

Vladimir KRYUKOV (1902–1960)
Sonata for Viola and Piano,
Op. 15 (1920–21; 1933) *
(To Vadim Borisovsky)

- 1** Largo tenebroso – Allegro
appassionato 12:42

Sergey VASILENKO (1872–1956)
Sonata for Viola and Piano,
Op. 46 (1923) †
(To Vadim Borisovsky)

- 2** Allegro moderato – Andante
amorevole – Fughetta 18:40

Grigory FRID (b. 1915)
Sonata for Viola, Op. 62, No. 1
(1971) †
(To Fedor Druzhinin)

- 3** I. Tranquillo e molto cantabile 4:56
4 II. Allegro (attacca) 3:54
5 III. Lento 5:10

Yulian KREIN (1913–1996)
Sonata for Viola and Piano,
(1973) *
(To Galina Kalacheva) 11:21

- 6** I. Moderato 4:45
7 II. Andante 3:44
8 III. Animato 2:48

**Valerian BOGDANOV-
BEREZOVSKY (1903–1971)**
Sonata for Viola and Piano,
Op. 44 (1956) *
(To Yuri Kramarov) 17:24

- 9** I. Allegro assai e poco inquieto 8:15
10 II. Tema con variazioni 6:23
11 III. Postludia 2:43

Igor Fedotov, Viola
Leonid Vechkhayzer, Piano ^{1–5}
Gary Hammond, Piano ^{6–11}

* WORLD PREMIÈRE RECORDINGS

Recorded at St Petersburg Recording Studio, St Petersburg, Russia, March 2007 (tracks 1–5) and at First Baptist Church, Kalamazoo, Michigan, USA, April 2007 (tracks 6–11) • Producer: Alexandr Barashkin
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Playing Time
74:37



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