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Playing Time
60:19

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 Booklet notes in English

The great twentieth-century Russian poet, Mikhail Alexeevich Kuzmin, was for much of his early life also passionately devoted to composition. Masterpieces of the vocal miniature, his *Sacred Songs* for voice and orchestra are settings of his own words based on studies of ancient Russian music. His incidental music for *Masquerade* is notable for a heartfelt *Romance* and a closing chorus which draws upon traditional Russian church music. *The Society of Honoured Bell Ringers* displays Mahlerian and Mozartian influences whilst greater harmonic complexity can be savoured in Kuzmin's edgier music for *Der deutsche Hinkemann*.

Mikhail Alexeevich
KUZMIN

(1872-1936)

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|-------|---|-------|
| 1-7 | Music for the play <i>The Society of Honoured Bell Ringers</i>
by Evgeny Zamyatin (1925) | 11:52 |
| 8-11 | Music for the drama <i>Masquerade</i> by Mikhail Lermontov (1909) | 10:11 |
| 12-14 | Sacred Songs for voice and orchestra (1901-1903) | 22:48 |
| 15-22 | Music for the play <i>Hinkemann the German</i>
by Ernst Toller (1923) | 15:29 |

WORLD PREMIÈRE RECORDINGS

Mila Shkirtil, Mezzo-soprano 9 12-14

Petrozavodsk State University Male Choir 11 15

Alexey Umnov, Artistic Director • Vasily Sirbu, Choirmaster

Karelia State Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra (Petrozavodsk)
Yuri Serov

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English transliterations and translations of the Russian sung texts can be found inside the booklet,
and may also be accessed at www.naxos.com/libretti/573192.htm

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from 24th to 26th May, 2013 • Produced, engineered and edited by Alexey Barashkin

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