

Mily Balakirev (1837–1910) – the leader of the group of Russian composers known as ‘the Mighty Handful’ – was influenced by folksong from the very start of his career. His expansive *Grand Fantasia on Russian Folksongs* for piano and orchestra is one of his very first compositions, written when he was fourteen. And the *30 Songs of the Russian People* for piano duet, folksong-arrangements from the other end of his career, show his deep understanding of the sources, which he endows with dignity and colour. Each of his arrangements is preceded on this CD by the original folksong, illuminating Balakirev’s perceptive approach to this fascinating material.

MIT DEUTSCHEM KOMMENTAR ~ NOTES EN FRANÇAIS

BALAKIREV and Russian Folksong

1 *Grand Fantasia on Russian Folksongs, Op. 4**

18:16

Joseph Banowetz, piano
Russian Philharmonic Orchestra
Konstantin Krimets, conductor

2–61 *30 Songs of the Russian People*

61:12

Even-numbered tracks: original folksong*
Odd-numbered tracks: Balakirev’s arrangement
Olga Kalugina, soprano
Svetlana Nikolayeva, mezzo soprano
Pavel Kolgatin, tenor
Joseph Banowetz and Alton Chung Ming Chan, piano four hands

*FIRST RECORDINGS

TT 79:28

TOCCATA CLASSICS
16 Dalkeith Court,
Vincent Street,
London SW1P 4HH, UK

Tel: +44/0 207 821 5020
Fax: +44/0 207 834 5020
E-mail: info@toccataclassics.com

© 2007, Toccata Classics, London
© 2007, Toccata Classics, London



TOCC 0018



MADE IN GERMANY