

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

### ■ *Grand Fantasia on Russian Folksongs, Op. 4\**

Joseph Banowetz, piano  
Russian Philharmonic Orchestra  
Konstantin Krimets, conductor

18:16

### ■ 1-61 *30 Songs of the Russian People*

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

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