

The Russian-born American pianist-composer Leo Ornstein (1893–2002) lived long enough – an astonishing 109 years – to see his music both fall into and re-emerge from obscurity. With his earliest surviving work dating from around 1905 and his last from 1990, Ornstein's music naturally embraces a range of styles, extending on this second CD of his piano music from the Rachmaninov-like *Suite Russe* (1914) to the brittle but urgent Impressionism of *A Morning in the Woods* (1971). The meat of this disc is the extraordinary sequence of seventeen Waltzes Ornstein composed largely in the 1960s and '70s, which vary from the sexily languorous to the boldly tempestuous, requiring the fearless virtuosity that Arseniy Kharitonov brings to them here.

TOCC 0167



LEO ORNSTEIN Piano Music, Volume Two

- 1 **Complete Waltzes, s400–16** (1958–c.1980)
- 18 **Suite Russe, s58** (1914)
- 25 **A Morning in the Woods, s106** (1971)*

60:08
11:20
7:24

TT 78:54

ALL EXCEPT * FIRST RECORDINGS

Arseniy Kharitonov, piano

Comment on Volume One in this series:

'the young Russian pianist (recorded in Texas) is more than capable of dealing with Ornstein's technical demands. Moreover, he interprets the music with total commitment and understanding, and is beautifully recorded. This is a distinguished and fascinating start to what should prove to be an important series of recordings.'

Fanfare

'Arseniy Kharitonov seems fully in command of the technical and emotional demands and the sound is nothing short of gorgeously close and warm. In splendid Toccata style Malcolm Macdonald contributes a substantial and highly readable liner note. [...] this slice through a largely unexplored catalogue presents Ornstein as a master of Russian romance both grand and gentle.'

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