

RHEINISCHE POST

ZEITUNG FÜR POLITIK UND CHRISTLICHE KULTUR

24 September 2010

A Tchaikowsky CD from Krefeld

(MoMe) The great Russian composer Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893) lives on, among other things, in the Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Moscow, and from here the pianist Anna Malikova has also emerged. Today residing in Krefeld, a student of Tamara Popovich and Lev Naumov, she enjoys an international reputation as Chopin interpreter on the one hand

and a representative of the "Russian School" on the other, and has now presented a new CD with works by Tchaikovsky.

The recording would not have been conceivable without someone else coming from Tchaikovsky Conservatory: it was the pianist and composer Mikhail Pletnev, who arranged the two ballets "Sleeping Beauty" and "Nutcracker", originally written for orchestra, as concert suites for solo piano. Malikova's enthusiasm for Pletnev's arrangements can immediately be understood by the listener. Although the orchestra may be an ideal partner for dancers, in these recordings she reveals the pure essence of the orchestra poems in all their beauty, without eye and ear being distracted in any way. And when Malikova's fingers dance virtuously on the keys, the ballet character of the music is

by no means lost. With her sophisticated and warm-hearted playing she achieves both narrative depth and a dashing momentum of dance. To the ballet suites fits perfectly with its 35 enchanting scenes, Tchaikovsky's "Children's Album", written originally for piano solo, which Malikova also performs with devotion and irresistible charm.

After nine albums on the Russian Independent label Classical Records and one on Audite, Anna Malikova gives on the current CD her debut with Farao Classics, which was recorded in Krefeld; both ballet suites are for the first time released on one CD.

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CD Anna Malikova, Tchaikovsky: Ballet Suites / Children's Album, Farao Classics B 108058, Price € 15,50

