**Russian Piano**

**TCHAIKOVSKY:** Dumka; **RACHMANINOFF:**

Etudes-Tableaux, op 33; **PROKOFIEFF:** Sarcasms;

**SHCHEDRIN:**Humoresque; A la Albeniz

Julia Sigova

Dalvivo 518—54 minutes

This program is an effective selection of good

Russian piano music. Tchaikovsky’s Dumka

makes regular appearances in both concert

and recorded performances. It is very Russian,

quite repetitive, and has enough technical

demands to make it heard often in competition

programs (especially the one in

Moscow named after the composer). I have

written extensively about Rachmaninoff ’s

first set of Etudes-Tableaux. They are great

pieces and have a recording history going

back to the composer and Horowitz. Prokofieff’s

early Sarcasms (1912) are a harmonically

adventurous 5 pieces that are shorter and less

overtly virtuosic than many of the composer’s

other early piano works. Shchedrin’s short

piano pieces, including the two here, have

been on several discs in the past year.

Sigova was born in Minsk (1982), began

her studies in Belarus and continued in Sweden

and Finland. She has won a number of

awards and seems to have a busy concert

schedule and a large repertoire. Her playing

is very musical. Her tempos are relaxed

enough to let the music unfold in great detail.

I prefer quicker tempos in some of these

pieces, but enjoyed listening several times.

HARRINGTON

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