

THE CAPITAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA – PRESS RELEASE

The Crown of Romanticism

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Grammy Award nominee 2019 Vladimir Gorbik conducts music of Austro-German Romantic Composers

This performance of the Capital Symphony Orchestra conducted by Vladimir Gorbik took place on the stage of the Small Hall of the Moscow Conservatory. The musicians presented two early symphonies of Felix Mendelssohn and Franz Schubert to their audience.

The Moscow Symphony Orchestra is a young, but already well-known, ensemble. It was founded by the widely renowned Moscow conductor, Vladimir Gorbik, in the spring of 2017. From the very first months of its existence, a high level of excellence was already manifested, with further development inevitably part of the symphony's future. Together with the Orchestra, Maestro Gorbik has given a number of concerts, performing in venues such as the Great Hall of the Moscow Conservatory, the Arkhipov Music Salon of the International Union of Musical Figures, and at the Center for the Performing Arts at Adelphi University in Garden City (New York, USA). This international audience highly appreciated the performing artistry of the Capital Symphony Orchestra, thanks to the dedication and ardent energy of its artistic director and chief conductor, Vladimir Gorbik.

Gorbik is so tuned in to the process of making music on stage during a concert that sometimes one forgets that they are actually merely in a hall. This is really the music of the higher spheres! Vladimir Gorbik is an amazing musician with an original vision and a deep perception of the musical world. Any symphony score comes alive in his hands. He is able to captivate and lead not only the players, but also the listeners. And there are a lot of these people, such sincere and truly loving and appreciative of classical music!

The most recent concert was given on the 30th of January, dedicated to the works of two Austro-German romantics, and this concert became a vivid confirmation of both the conductor's love and fire for music and the ability of the listeners to understand this.

In the first part of the program, the Capital Symphony Orchestra performed the (*"Tragic"*) *Symphony No. 4 in C minor* by Franz Schubert with its amazing and gentle cantilena, expressing a fervor of feelings and emotions. This symphony was composed by a young Schubert at the age of nineteen.

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Mendelssohn composed his *Symphony No. 1* even earlier. The music is full of light, harmony and romantic expression.

The performance of this program on the small stage of the Small Hall of the Conservatory can be considered somewhat unique. Symphonic groups do not often play here. However, the music of Schubert and Mendelssohn is distinguished by the use of a chamber orchestra, with its accompanying, and penetrating, lyricism.

Vladimir Gorbik comments:

“For me, Russian and Austro-German music have always been inextricably linked. Since childhood I have enjoyed playing the Russian classics. Later, this resulted in many years of work in the field of Russian sacred music. Yet even among German composers, for example, Johann Sebastian Bach, I always felt very close to my inner desire to create according to musical canons. I feel the relationship between this moment and the fact that the Orthodox Christian people have a desire to live within the canons of the Church. The classics are amazing because, despite many limitations, these creations reach perfection in various forms of art. I love to play Bach, Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven. This is the question of what resonance in my heart there is with the Austro-German musical tradition. When I was a student, I discovered Schubert and Mendelssohn. In my heart, I felt their romantic style.

“The programming choice of these two early symphonies of Schubert and Mendelssohn is also related to the fact that their material breathes with the extraordinary sincerity of young hearts. The music of these two symphonies echoes this simplicity, and the two works really complement one another. Anxiety, emotion and youthful feeling of tragedy on the one hand, and the same pronounced feelings of enthusiasm and exultation on the other. Additionally, one the most important reasons for these choices is the fact that both of these beautiful compositions are, unfairly, rarely performed in Russia. I would like to introduce as many listeners to them as possible.”

Listening to both symphonies under the interpretation of Maestro Gorbik and the Capital Symphony Orchestra’s musicians, it was amazing to watch how such a young group is mobile and united, not trying to limit itself merely to technically perfect execution, but rather to ascend to the level of co-creation with the composers whose works they perform.

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Vladimir Gorbik continues:

“The orchestra was really excited about my proposal to perform both of these symphonies. Any good musician is happy to play such music. By the expressions on their faces, the game was noticeably deeply immersed in the very essence of these works.”

The audience of the Small Hall enthusiastically welcomed the performers, not wanting to let them off the stage.

The Capital Symphony Orchestra’s current season has a tour schedule which includes not only performances in Russia, but also concert trips to the United States and Italy.

This dynamic young orchestra and its conductor, Vladimir Gorbik, await the opening of an international music festival in New York. “Russian-American Friendship in Manhattan” will feature an extensive program in which the music of both Russians and Americans will be performed.