

RUSSIAN NATIONAL ORCHESTRA

Reviews

Reviews of the RNO's 10th Anniversary US Tour, 2001

"I saw the greatest orchestra in the world play Friday night. If you think that's hyperbole, ask anyone who was in Yardley Hall that night...The Russian National Orchestra is the Rolls-Royce of orchestras. [It] is like nothing we are used to in America, even from our very best."

— *The Kansas City Star*

"Russia may not usually present the ideal model for the smooth transition of power. But in the often fractious world of orchestras, it has done remarkably well with the Russian National Orchestra...Individual players are exceptional—there were breathtaking solos from the concertmaster, first cello, as well as from trumpet and harp—but even more remarkable is the focus of sound...No one had to tell the [audience] to be quiet; the music and the wonderful players simply gave them no choice."

— *Los Angeles Times*

"You might think your Corvette offers everything in a sleek and powerful sports car, but get behind the wheel of a Ferrari and life will never be quite the same. That was the experience of Tuesday evening's capacity crowd when the Russian National Orchestra came to town...Simply put, the Russian National Orchestra offered some of the most expressive and revelatory music making ever heard in San Luis Obispo."

— *The Tribune*, San Luis Obispo

"The Russian National Orchestra remains in the top handful of the world's finest. The polish and ensemble brilliance in every section are things of wonder, from the silky sheen of the strings to the ripe, character-filled woodwinds and warmly rounded brass."

— *Sun-Sentinel*, Fort Lauderdale

"The audience, so fervent and vocal in the ovations that you half expected them to rush the stage and hoist the players to their shoulders, stood and shouted approval again and again."

— *The Seattle Times*

"The Russian National Orchestra is a virtuoso ensemble, capable of the most delicate pianissimos, the most sumptuous string tone, the most vigorous rhythms and the most accurate precision."

— *Palm Beach Daily News*

"The Russian National's expressive string sections...brought aching warmth and nuance to the big tunes [of Tchaikovsky Fifth Symphony]. Spivakov marshaled a performance of beautifully crafted phrases...Suddenly, even the familiar sounded new."

— *The Orange County Register*

"The RNO is now a global orchestra of the first rank, one endowed with abundant resources, an undeniable grandeur and a fiery spirit...maturing with a grace and a confidence that may even be startling to its founders... [A] reading as winning in its expressivity as it was remarkable in its restraint."

— *San Francisco Chronicle*

"The Russian National Orchestra gave an ideal concert Sunday afternoon in Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall. I doubt if the hushed, packed house wanted to be anywhere else...A decade of traveling and making prize-winning recordings has honed the group into one of the world's most responsive orchestras...The massed strings are led by a sensational concertmaster and principal cello. The winds are fabulous; the flute playing was celestial. The brass is sonorous and yearning...This orchestra is pure pleasure to hear."

— *The Oakland Tribune*

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Of the RNO's summer 1999 Hollywood Bowl residency:

"The orchestra's many resources include an accomplished, virtuosic string choir, strong winds and a deep sense of ensemble surprising in an instrumental body less than ten years old. The band can also boast a wide dynamic range used effectively and an alert command of style."

—*Los Angeles Times*, August 12, 1999

"You marvel at the RNO's unruffled style and grace. You are amazed by its delicate balance. You didn't want the performance to end."

—*Orange County Register*, August 12, 1999

Recordings:

"...here is an elegantly virtuoso performance that grows in stature on repeated listening...concern for detail, balance and timbre is impeccable, with tight discipline, Technicolor articulation and subtle timing very much the order of the day."

—*BBC Music Magazine*, June 1999

"Hardly a minute passes without one's ear being enchanted by an affective gesture of the utmost precision, poise and sensitivity (all the various solos are superbly done)..."

—*Gramophone Magazine*, July 1999

Romantic Record of the Year for Rachmaninov Symphony No. 3, and Symphonic Dances

—*Classic FM Magazine*, January 1999

Articles:

"...the passion, the fire that they play with. When they are at their most magical, you're kind of swept away."

—Gil Shaham, *Time Magazine*, May 11, 1998

More Reviews:

"Is there an international sound for orchestras? If so, the RNO has acquired it miraculously."

—*San Francisco Examiner*

"The RNO is virtuosity times 100."

—*The Sacramento Bee*

"...an awe-inspiring experience. Should human beings be able to play like this?"

—*Gramophone Magazine*

"The drama is brought out to the full. Again and again one is amazed by this marvelous orchestra that, within a period of a few years, has...become one of the world's best."

—*Pizzicato*, Luxembourg

"This (Prokofiev's *Cinderella*) is quite simply the best played, most atmospheric and affecting *Cinderella* we have ever had. This is one of the best records, not only of the year, but of the 1990s!"

—*Gramophone Magazine*

"They played with such captivating beauty that the audience gave an involuntary sigh of pleasure."

—*Evening Standard*, London

"With a series of exceptionally engaging recordings on Deutsche Grammophon, the orchestra has come to represent a return to elegance and sophistication...like everything else about this remarkable organization, (the music) seems not just new but newly worthwhile."

—*Los Angeles Times*, April 9, 1998