

RAF NEWS

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Antonio Banderas records with the RNO

Peter & the Wolf and *Wolf Tracks* to be released in Spanish



International stars Antonio Banderas and Sophia Loren are featured on a Russian National Orchestra CD to be released in February. On the PentaTone Classics release, Banderas narrates in Spanish Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf* and *Wolf Tracks* by Jean-Pascal Beintus. The CD also includes Sophia Loren's English narration of the Prokofiev classic recorded with the RNO and released in 2003. That disc, with former presidents Bill Clinton and Mikhail Gorbachev nar-

rating along with Ms. Loren, received a 2004 Grammy Award. Kent Nagano is conductor on the original release, as well as for this new Spanish version.

Said Banderas, "I was honored to join this high quality artistic project aimed at young audiences. It is wonderful to think of Spanish-speaking youth around the world listening to my story-telling, and perhaps experiencing classical music for the first time."

"These tales have a universal appeal that stretches across different cultures, and generations too," Banderas added. "The music and words provide a magic experience that parents and teachers can share right along with the children."

Both Banderas and Loren have designated youth charities to receive their royalties. Banderas has chosen Save the Children, which works internationally to give children safe, healthy and fulfilling lives, and Loren selected the Magic of Music, an arts therapy program conducted in Russian orphanages. Proceeds from the CD's sales will also be shared with the New York-based Wolf Conservation Center.

Naxos of America CEO Jim Sturgeon said, "We are excited to be the distributor of this Spanish language CD in North America. Antonio Banderas delivers an irresistible performance that will delight not only native speakers, but students of Spanish of all ages."

Discounted Recordings

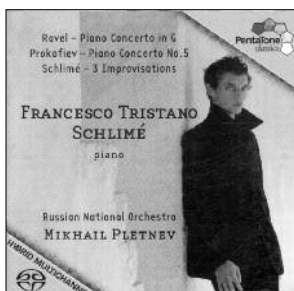
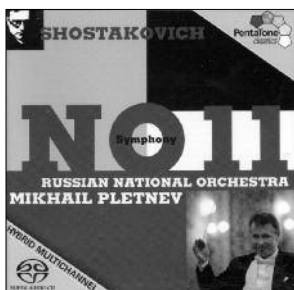
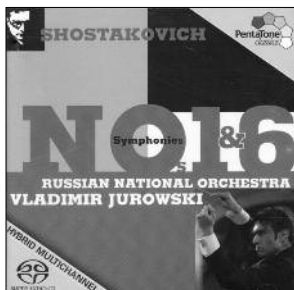
Members of the Russian Arts Foundation are eligible for a special discount on selected recordings.

The discount (\$5 per disc) is available for recent CDs – many of which have received industry awards and accolades (see article, page 2). Qualifying recordings are indicated on the Russian Arts Foundation website.

Membership in the Russian Arts Foundation is \$150 per year and includes a one-year subscription to *Russian Life* magazine and to the *RAF News*, VIP tickets to concerts and special members-only discounts and offers.

For more information, visit www.russianarts.org

RNO 2006 recordings garner acclaim, awards



Last year saw the release of three recordings in the RNO/PentaTone Classics Shostakovich cycle. This series has been acclaimed as “the most exciting cycle of Shostakovich symphonies to be put down on disc and easily the best recorded” (*SA-CD.net*).

Vladimir Jurowski’s recording of Shostakovich

Symphonies 1 and 6 was selected as Editor’s Choice by *Gramophone* and was awarded the Diapason d’Or de l’année, the Choc du monde de la Musique de l’année, and a Double 10 by *Classics Today*. It was named one of 2006’s

best recordings by *Soundstage*. The *Dallas News* wrote, “Here the new Russia goes up against the old and comes up the winner... You won’t find a more electrifying Symphony No. 1 than this one.”

Equally strong has been the acclaim for Shostakovich Symphony No. 11 conducted by Mikhail Pletnev. “The Russian musicians play Symphony No. 11 to perfection. Pletnev goes for the jugular in his dramatic reading, and some of the climaxes are hair-raising.” (*Soundstage*) “I would find it hard to recommend any other version musically above this interpretation – it chills me to the core with the oppressive material crushing the songful laments which were so beautifully played.” (*SA-CD.net*) The recording was *London Telegraph’s* Classical CD of the Week and a Best of 2006 selection by *Soundstage*.

The most recent release in the Shostakovich cycle is Symphony No. 8 conducted by Paavo Berglund. *Pizzicato* magazine gave the disc its Supersonic Award, noting “what distinguishes [this] version is its immediacy. Berglund never prepares us for the Abyss: he does not increase the tension, holding it on high from the outset and so opens the earth again and again for our ears, as with an

earthquake....” *SA-CD.net* called this recording of Shostakovich’s Eighth Symphony “the most wrenching I’ve heard.”

Also released in 2006 was a recording of works by Ravel and Prokofiev, conducted by Mikhail Pletnev and featuring pianist Francesco Tristano

The RNO/Pentatone Classics Shostakovich cycle has been acclaimed as “the most exciting cycle of Shostakovich symphonies to be put down on disc and easily the best recorded.”

Schlimé. The disc was awarded the Choc du monde de la Musique and selected as a *Gramophone* Editor’s Choice. In naming it Classical CD of the Week, the *London Telegraph* wrote: “Schlimé brings flair, care and imagination, matched by the crisp, translucent playing of the Russian National Orchestra...”

The newest release is Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto and other Tchaikovsky violin works, conducted by Yakov Kreizberg and featuring Julia Fischer. Though recently released, it is already garnering astounding reviews. *Classics Today* called the disc “A Perfect 10: This belongs on anyone’s short list of truly outstanding versions. It has everything: transcendent virtuosity, tons of excitement in the finale, and... a soloist with both taste and a personal sound that allows her to make the music her own.... If you’re looking for a splendid new Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto that offers superior artistic values and excellent SACD surround sonics, this is definitely the one to get.”

2007 promises more exceptional recordings from the RNO. Recordings can be purchased through the Russian Arts Foundation website (discounts apply to RAF members), or through music retailers.

Join the Russian Arts Foundation

The Russian Arts Foundation is a US non-profit, tax-exempt organization established in 1992 to promote international understanding through the arts.

The arts offer a unique opportunity to deepen cross-cultural understanding, to bring the world closer through cultural exchange and education. The arts demonstrate and emphasize our common humanity, promoting globalism instead of isolationism, community instead of conflict. The Russian Arts Foundation is vigorously engaged in advancing these ideals.

Join the Russian Arts Foundation (just \$150 per year), and you will not only be supporting our initiatives, you will also enjoy some very tangible benefits of membership:

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- our periodic newsletter, *RAF News*, describing the work of the Foundation and informing you of upcoming events;
- a set of colorful gift cards designed by children in Moscow orphanages and facilities for the disabled;
- a complimentary copy of the RNO *Encore!* CD;
- exclusive invitations to concerts and events
- discounts on recordings

To join the Russian Arts Foundation, visit www.russianarts.org or call **802-223-8444**

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RUSSIAN NATIONAL ORCHESTRA

SPRING 2007 TOUR

MARCH 2

Centre for the Arts Count de Hoernle Amphitheater
Boca Raton, FL
Conductor: Teodor Currentzis
Soloist: Dmitri Hvorostovsky, Baritone

MARCH 4

Centre for the Arts Count de Hoernle Amphitheater
Boca Raton, FL
Conductor: Vladimir Jurowski
Soloist: Yefim Bronfman, Piano

MARCH 7

Centre for the Arts Count de Hoernle Amphitheater
Boca Raton, FL
Conductor: Vladimir Jurowski
Soloists: Nina Kotova, Cello
Hélène Grimaud, Piano

MARCH 10

Centre for the Arts Count de Hoernle Amphitheater
Boca Raton, FL
Conductor: Vladimir Jurowski
Soloist: Itzhak Perlman, Violin

MARCH 13

Lincoln Center, Avery Fisher Hall
New York, NY
Conductor: Vladimir Jurowski
Soloist: Leonidas Kavakos, Violin

MARCH 14

Mechanic's Hall
Worcester, MA
Conductor: Vladimir Jurowski
Soloist: Maxim Rubtsov, Flute

MARCH 16

Troy Savings Bank Music Hall
Troy, NY
Conductor: Mikhail Pletnev
Soloist: Nikolai Lugansky, Piano

MARCH 18

Lincoln Center, Avery Fisher Hall
New York, NY
Conductor: Mikhail Pletnev
Soloist: Nikolai Lugansky, Piano

MARCH 22

L'Auditorium de Dijon
Dijon, France
Conductor: Mikhail Pletnev
Soloist: Nikolai Lugansky, Piano

MARCH 23

Salle Pleyel
Paris, France
Conductor: Mikhail Pletnev
Soloist: Nikolai Lugansky, Piano

MARCH 24

Köln Philharmonie
Köln, Germany
Conductor: Mikhail Pletnev
Soloist: Denis Matsuev, Piano

MARCH 25

Köln Philharmonie
Köln, Germany
Conductor: Mikhail Pletnev
Soloist: Denis Matsuev, Piano

MARCH 26

Meistersingerhalle
Nurnberg, Germany
Conductor: Mikhail Pletnev

MARCH 27

Philharmonie
Munich, Germany
Conductor: Mikhail Pletnev

MARCH 29

Budapest, Hungary
Conductor: Mikhail Pletnev
Soloist: Denis Matsuev, Piano

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