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Oleg Volkov, piano

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UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC CONCERT SERIES

Oleg Volkov
piano

February 5, 1993, 8:15 PM
North Court Recital Hall

Soon after *Oleg Volkov's* arrival in the United States, U.S. music critics began praising his performances, declaring his work as that of a new and major artist.

In recital at the George Mason Center for the Arts in February, 1991, Volkov performed works of Haydn and Rachmaninov on the piano of Vladimir Horowitz. In a critique of the Rachmaninov Preludes and Sonata No. 2, Joseph McLellan of the *Washington Post* wrote, "Volkov's piano stormed and whispered. . . There was a crystalline purity of tone, a superb clarity of definition in harmonies and counterpoint, an evenness of voicing and a lightness of touch and pure dexterity that could leave an audience breathless."

Oleg Volkov was born in Rostov-on-Don in the south of Russia. With piano as an avocation and with Sergei Rachmaninov as inspiration, his parents encouraged Oleg to begin piano instruction at the early age of five.

Graduating from local music schools with Highest Honors, Volkov began studying under the great Maestro Victor Merzhanov at the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory in 1977. A distinguished student at the Conservatory, he completed his postgraduate degree (Doctor of Musical Art) in 1987, again receiving Highest Honors. Volkov was then elected assistant professor at the conservatory, serving as a special assistant to Victor Merzhanov. In 1990 he came to the United States as a Visiting Professor of Music at the University of Maryland. At present Volkov and his wife, Svetlana, live in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Since 1982 Volkov has performed in recital and as soloist with orchestras in many of the cities of the Soviet Union, as well as Spain, Italy, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary, Chile and the United States. He is a prize winner of several prestigious international competitions, including the 1989 Tokyo Competition, the 1982 Paloma O'Shea Competition (Spain), and the William Kapell Competition in the United States in 1990.

Volkov is currently under a three-year contract with Music Corporation of America (MCA) to produce a minimum of six compact discs. His first CD, released in 1991, includes works of Beethoven, Liszt, Prokofiev, and Shostokovich. A second, released in November of 1991, features works by Haydn, Beethoven and Rachmaninov. He has also recorded on the Melodia (USSR) and Fontec (Japan) labels.

Following his highly praised performance with the National Symphony Orchestra at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Volkov rapidly gained critical and popular acclaim in the nation's capital. As recently as September 1991, a *Washington Post* reviewer described Volkov's recital at the Phillips Collection as "electrifying" and wrote, "Not since...has this reviewer heard a pianist of such kaleidoscopic aural imagination and microcosmic precision of touch."

Volkov has been invited by Music Director Mstislav Rostropovich to perform as soloist with the National Symphony Orchestra and will be presented by the Washington Performing Arts Society at the Kennedy Center during the 1992-93 season.

P R O G R A M

32 Variations in C minor, WoO80

Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770-1827)

Impromptu in A-flat major, op. 90, no. 4

Franz Schubert
(1797-1828)

Sonata in A minor, op. 164

Allegro ma non troppo
Allegretto quasi Andantino
Allegro vivace

I N T E R M I S S I O N

12 Preludes, op. 28

Frédéric Chopin
(1810-1849)

Sarcasms, op. 17

Tempestuoso
Allegro rubato
Allegro precipitato
Smanioso
Precipitosissimo

Sergey Prokofiev
(1891-1953)

Liebesleid

Fritz Kreisler
(1875-1962)

Liebesfreud

(arr. S. Rachmaninov)