



RUSSIAN MUSIC FOR CELLO AND PIANO

MIASKOVSKY Cello Sonata no 2 in A minor op.81 **SCRIABIN** Etude op.8 no.11 (arr Piatigorsky) **PROKOFIEV** Adagio from Ten Pieces from Cinderella op.97b **SCHNITKE** Musica nostalgica **RACHMANINOFF** Cello Sonata in G minor op.19

Wendy Warner (cello) Irina Nuzova (piano)

CEDILLE CDR 90000 120



Wendy Warner and Irina Nuzova confirm themselves as high-ranking artists with this excellently recorded and produced CD of Russian music. Their attractive programme is particularly notable for featuring the lesser-known Miaskovsky Second Sonata composed for the young Mstislav Rostropovich in the late 1940s. This Romantically orientated work is given a compelling performance, in which the musically discursive moments are guided with such a sure sense of direction that one is convinced from beginning to end. The duo is especially impressive in the finale, a relentless moto perpetuo in which Warner displays her consummate technical mastery of spiccato bowing.



Wendy Warner:
full-blooded and
committed playing

As a contrast to the helter-skelter conclusion to the Miaskovsky, Warner unveils Piatigorsky's captivating transcription of a Scriabin etude by moulding the lyrical melodic line with great affection. Likewise the Adagio from Prokofiev's *Cinderella* is projected with passion and ardour. Schnittke's *Musica nostalgica*, which draws its material from one of the movements of his *Suite in the Old Style*, projects a more reserved whimsical approach, though one that doesn't overlook the touches of humour in the music.

Rachmaninoff's Cello Sonata, which concludes the programme, is a tremendous emotional rollercoaster. Both artists steer an adroit course to manage its dramatic impact with care, with the Andante particularly eloquent and poignant. Such full-blooded and committed playing can't fail to entrance.

JOANNE TALBOT