

# NEW RELEASE MUSO

## September 2016

**Pyotr Ilyich TCHAIKOVSKY (1840-1893)**

**String Quartet No. 2 in F major, Op. 22 (1874)**

/ 1 I. Adagio - Moderato assai, quasi andantino  
/ 2 II. Scherzo: Allegro giusto / 3 III. Andante ma non tanto  
/ 4 IV. Finale: Allegro con moto

**Dmitri SHOSTAKOVICH (1906-1975)**

**String Quartet No. 8 in C minor, Op. 110 (1960)**

/ 5 I. Largo / 6 II. Allegro molto / 7 III. Allegretto  
/ 8 IV. Largo / 9 V. Largo

**Two pieces for string quartet (1931)**

/ 10 I. Elegy (Agadio) / 11 II. Polka (Allegretto)



**DAVID OISTRAKH STRING QUARTET**

Andrey Baranov, 1<sup>st</sup> violin - Rodion Petrov, 2<sup>nd</sup> violin  
Fedor Belugin, viola - Alexey Zhilin, cello

**A** new string quartet's debut recording is always a memorable occasion. And muso is particularly proud to welcome into its catalogue the **David Oistrakh String Quartet**, a young ensemble founded in 2012 by violinist Andrey Baranov, who won first prize at the Queen Elisabeth Violin Competition 75 years after the triumph of fellow Russian David Oistrakh. A case of history coming full circle!

For their first disc, these young soloists boldly launched head first into the vast repertoire of two of the greatest Russian composers: **Tchaikovsky and Shostakovich**. The two quartets performed here were composed almost a century apart. Tchaikovsky was at the height of his powers and had yet to write his most famous works when he composed his String Quartet No. 2. Throughout his life he was to refer to it as one of his best works, the music having "poured forth effortlessly and joyfully, being written practically at one sitting." If these quartets have still not made it into the mainstream repertoire, let us hope the present performance will encourage this state of affairs to change. At times taut, the music is magnificently rendered with exceptional beauty and great warmth.

In Shostakovich's case, on the contrary, nobody today would contest the importance of the string quartets in his oeuvre, which often reflects the composer's state of mind at the time of writing, and his String Quartet No. 8 is no exception. Written in Dresden in 1960, it was dedicated "to the victims of fascism and war" (we do not know precisely who the composer had in mind when he wrote these words). At the time he composed the piece, Shostakovich was going through a troubled period both in his personal life and in his relations with the Soviet authorities. The composer was so satisfied with this clearly autobiographical piece that he subsequently dedicated it to himself! ("I reflected that, when I die, nobody is likely to compose a work in my memory, so I decided to write one myself..."). The musicians of the David Oistrakh Quartet throw themselves body and soul into this incredibly poignant and intense music, with its 5 extraordinarily powerful linked movements.

This is a magnificent choice of programme for a string quartet making here its **impressive debut** on the international recording scene!

**Reference: MU-011**

Total time: 65'21

Digipak / Booklet 20 pages

Text by Michel Stockhem in English, French, German and Russian

Recorded at the Studio 4 in Flagey, Brussels (Belgium) from 28 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2015

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A new string quartet's debut recording is always a memorable occasion; muso is proud to welcome into its catalogue the David Oistrakh String Quartet, a young ensemble founded in 2012 by the violinist Andrey Baranov, in a programme featuring two quartets by two of the greatest Russian composers - Tchaikovsky and Shostakovich - for this impressive debut on the international recording scene!

### DAVID OISTRAKH STRING QUARTET

David Oistrakh Quartet features today's most outstanding musicians of Russia. In 2012 the family of the legendary 20<sup>th</sup> century violinist honored the quartet with his name. Over the years of artistic friendship and passion for art of quartet led the young soloists and the grand masters of quartet to form this extraordinary ensemble.

All four musicians play on notable Italian instruments made by Antonio Stradivari, Niccolò Amati and Francesco Ruggeri.

The David Oistrakh Quartet frequently performs at many of the most recognised Russian venues including all of the country's famous philharmonics halls. They have travelled across Europe, performing in countries including France, Belgium, Sweden, Norway and Denmark and over the last few years have had the honor to play at various renowned festivals in Georgia where they collaborated with such famous artists as Eliso Virsaladze, Eduard Brunner and Liana Isakadze.

Highlights of the quartet's next season include debut performances in Japan and South America as well as concerts with Eliso Virsaladze in Brussels, Moscow and Saint Petersburg, the release of their first CD, one of two to have been recorded recently, featuring works by Tchaikovsky, Shostakovich, Grieg, Mendelssohn and Paganini.

[www.oistrakhquartet.com](http://www.oistrakhquartet.com)



75 years after the triumph of the Russian legend David Oistrakh at the Queen Elisabeth International Violin Competition, the first violinist of the quartet **Andrey BARANOV** symbolically won the first prize in 2012. Baranov is also laureate of David Oistrakh competition and Liana Isakadze competition (student of Oistrakh) among many other top prizes in international competitions. His international career has led him to perform as soloist with London Philharmonic, Sendai Philharmonic, Saint Petersburg Philharmonic, Brussels Philharmonic, National Orchestra of Belgium, Tchaikovsky Symphony Orchestra, Luxemburg Philharmonic, Montreal Symphony Orchestra and MusicAeterna Orchestra across the globe. [www.baranov.com](http://www.baranov.com)

Second violinist of the David Oistrakh Quartet is **Rodion PETROV**. He is a graduate of the Reina Sofia Music Academy in Madrid and the Moscow State Conservatory. He is a prizewinner of numerous competitions including Premio Rudolfo Lipizer (Italy, 1996) and Premio Paganini (Italy, 1998). He appeared as a soloist at such concert halls as Auditorio Nacional (Madrid), Suntory Hall (Tokyo) and others. Rodion Petrov is a regular participant of the festivals and concerts in Russia, Europe and Asia.

Violist **Fedor BELUGIN** is laureate of number of international competitions and teaches at the Moscow State Conservatory and at the Gnessin Music Academy. He is one of the few violist with leading quartet activities as well as an active solo career. During an important period of his life he was a violist of the Shostakovich Quartet. [www.fedorbelugin.com](http://www.fedorbelugin.com)

Cellist **Alexey ZHILIN** is considered as one of the leading cellist of his generation in Russia. Having won number of international prizes, beside his quartet career, he appears frequently as soloist with chamber and symphony orchestras in Russia and abroad. Since 2013 Alexey Zhilin teaches at the Saint Petersburg State Conservatory.



[Forthcoming release: Spring 2017](#)

**Edward GRIEG** - String quartet No. 1 in G minor, Op. 27

**Felix MENDELSSOHN** - String quartet No. 2 in A minor, Op. 13

David Oistrakh String Quartet