

Orchestre philharmonique de Strasbourg's new Music Director Aziz Shokhakimov and Patricia Kopatchinskaja join forces for a concert of Shostakovich and Prokofiev



Thursday 19 May & Friday 20 May 2022, 20:00
Palace of Music and Congresses

Prokofiev Symphony No. 1 in "Classical" D major*
Shostakovich Violin Concerto No. 1 in A minor
Prokofiev Romeo and Juliet, Suites 1 and 2*

Orchestre philharmonique de Strasbourg
Aziz Shokhakimov **conductor**
Patricia Kopatchinskaja **violin**

*For a new recording on Warner Classics

In his first season as Music Director with the **Orchestre philharmonique de Strasbourg**, 34-year-old Uzbek, Aziz Shokhakimov, winner of the Gustav Mahler Conducting Competition, champions an all-Russian programme with world-renowned violinist Patricia Kopatchinskaja. Their concerts include Shostakovich's *Violin Concerto No. 1*, Prokofiev's "Classical" *Symphony No. 1* and two orchestral suites from his ballet *Roméo et Juliette*. As part of the Orchestra's new 4-year multimedia strategy partnership, the concert will be live-streamed on [Medici.tv](https://www.medicivt.com) and both Prokofiev pieces will be recorded for Warner Classics.

Celebrated violinist Patricia Kopatchinskaja's is playing Shostakovich's *Violin Concerto No. 1*, which was originally written for David Oistrakh in 1947-48. Oistrakh performed the concerto's premiere on 29 October 1955 with the Leningrad Philharmonic with Yevgeny Mravinsky conducting. It was received in Russia and abroad as an "extraordinary success."

Around this work, three scores by Prokofiev – a composer that Aziz Shokhakimov is particularly fond of. In particular, he chose *Symphony No. 1* "Classical", which combines the modern spirit after 1918 and reminiscences of the 18th century. The composer's desire was indeed to show what Haydn could have written if he had lived in the 20th century. Later, the two suites for orchestra taken from his ballet *Roméo et Juliette* follow the Shakespearean drama, between dramatic moments and psychological portraits of the protagonists.

The name and reputation of the Orchestre philharmonique de Strasbourg is constantly enhanced by its dynamic audio-visual coverage, and the Orchestra has recently joined a new partnership with Warner Classics and Medici.tv for an ambitious 4-year multimedia strategy to record and film the Orchestra's most high-profile projects. This will enable concerts to be streamed live and recorded at the same time, in addition to further recordings released with 3D Dolby Atmos Technology.

With two "3D" albums (released on 15 and 22 October 2021), the Orchestre philharmonique de Strasbourg is the first French orchestra to produce a recording with 3D Dolby Atmos technology. Offering three-dimensional sound, the collection launched by Warner recreates a surround-sound experience of the Orchestra. It has given rise to a minor revolution for original film soundtracks with recordings dating back to the 1950s.

Orchestre philharmonique de Strasbourg



Orchestre philharmonique de Strasbourg, was founded in 1855, is based in Strasbourg's Palais de la musique et des congrès, and tours in France and internationally. The OPS ranks as one of the major orchestras in France and was awarded the label of "National Orchestra" in 1994. The Orchestra is also one of the two permanent orchestras of the Opéra national du Rhin. With 110 permanent musicians perpetuating its dual French/German tradition, the Orchestra is engaged in an ambitious project centred on symphonic music.

In 2017 the Orchestra embarked on a landmark Berlioz recording cycle with conductor John Nelson, recorded for Warners Erato, with the first recording in the series, *Les Troyens*, awarded Gramophone Magazine's 2018 Recording of the Year. Further notable recent releases include *BariTenor* with Michael Spyres (September 2021).

The Orchestra contributes to Strasbourg's outreach with regular performances in landmark venues throughout France and Europe including the Philharmonie de Paris, Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg, KKL in Lucerne, Gasteig in Munich, Musikverein in Vienna, etc. It has resumed its grand international tours which have already taken the Orchestra to Japan, Brazil and Argentina. In June 2017, it gave a series of concerts in South Korea, which were so successful that the Orchestra was immediately invited to come back for another season.

The Orchestra's exciting new Music and Artistic Director Aziz Shokhakimov took up the position in September 2021 for an initial contract of three seasons, succeeding Marko Letonja.

<https://philharmonique.strasbourg.eu/>

Aziz Shokhakimov



Aziz Shokhakimov was born in Uzbekistan, he entered a music school for exceptionally gifted children at the age of six, where he studied violin, viola and orchestra conducting with Vladimir Neymer. At the age of thirteen, he made his debut as a conductor with the National Symphony Orchestra of Uzbekistan. The following year, he conducted his first opera – Bizet's *Carmen* – at the Uzbekistan National Opera.

Shokhakimov is 34, and won the Gustav Mahler Conducting Competition in Bamberg aged just 21. Since then, he has conducted distinguished orchestras such as Staatskapelle Dresden, Kammerphilharmonie Bremen, SWR

Sinfonieorchester, HR-Sinfonieorchester, Deutsches Sinfonieorchester Berlin, London Philharmonic Orchestra and the Oregon, Pacific and Houston Symphony orchestras.

He is also Artistic Director to the Tekfen Philharmonic Orchestra, and has links to the Salzburg Festival since winning the Salzburg Festival Young Conductors Award in August 2016.

Shokhakimov took up the position of Music and Artistic Director of the Orchestra philharmonique de Strasbourg in September 2021 for an initial contract of three seasons.

<http://shokhakimov.com/>

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