

# YEVGENY SUDBIN



YEVGENY SUDBIN: enjoys recording in the acoustic of the Västerås Concert Hall

## SLEEVENOTES

Composer Rachmaninov Works Piano Sonata No. 2 (Horowitz version); Variations on a theme of Chopin Artists Yevgeny Sudbin (piano) Label BIS Recorded at Västerås Concert Hall, Stockholm

**How's the recording going?**  
**What's the Västerås Concert Hall like to record in?**

The recording's going very well, and the hall's great. It's newly built and has got a relatively new Steinway piano. When I first came here, looking to choose a venue to record in, I immediately thought that the acoustic, the piano and the atmosphere suited me very well. We've had two very productive days, have done the difficult bit, and tomorrow we will be polishing up the fine details.

**Why have you chosen to record Rachmaninov after your debut disc of Scarlatti?**

I had always had it in mind to record both composers, but initially couldn't decide which to do first. Rachmaninov's about as different as you can get from Scarlatti – I like variety and a good contrast.

**You've chosen to record Horowitz's version of the Sonata No. 2, rather than Rachmaninov's own original or revised versions...**

Horowitz created his version by combining the best parts of the original and the revised versions, neither of which are satisfying. The first has a lot of unnecessary complex passages and in his revised version Rachmaninov cut out a lot of really amazing bits. I think the

Horowitz version is the best compromise you can come up with – and Rachmaninov also thought so, because he approved of the version when Horowitz played it to him.

**What are the challenges of the Variations on a theme of Chopin?**

The challenges are more musical than technical. It's a very long piece and one that is difficult to make sense of structurally. Some variations are much longer than others, so musically it's a massive challenge to make it seem like a complete work.

**Do you prefer the recording studio or performing on the concert stage?**

I would never give up one for the other. Recording's quite tiring, as you have three days in a row, eight hours a day, filled with adrenalin. But it's also very satisfying, as I have very strong ideas about interpretation which I can give the ultimate push when in the studio.

**But don't you ever change your mind about your interpretation?**

Yes. It happened today in fact. When I was listening to one take backstage, I decided that a particular passage wasn't as interesting as I thought it should be. So I tried it differently, and it felt so comfortable. This doesn't happen very often though.

**So Scarlatti first, Rachmaninov second. What's next?**

I've got lots of ideas! I want to keep a healthy balance and not record just Romantic, or just Baroque, or just Classical repertoire. I would like to do some German Romantic music – perhaps Brahms – and I would also really like to do a Scriabin disc. I've always felt the need to record Medtner, too – he deserves far more attention than he presently receives.

*Yevgeny Sudbin's Rachmaninov is due to be released later this year*

## THE TOP 20



NO. 1 Véronique Gens

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(LAST MONTH'S POSITION IN BRACKETS)

**1 CANTELOUBE: CHANTS D'Auvergne** GENS; LILLE NATIONAL O/CASADEUS NAXOS 8.557491

**2 (6) RENAISSANCE SIXTEEN/CHRISTOPHERS** UCI 986 8054

**3 (8) MARIO LANZA: THE DEFINITIVE COLLECTION** BMG 82876614032

**4 (4) ORFF: CARMINA BURANA** BPO/RATTLE EMI 557 8882

**5 (1) JOHN WILLIAMS: ULTIMATE GUITAR COLLECTION** SONY 515 4002

**6 (3) LUDOVICO EINAUDI: UNA MATTINA** DECCA 475 6292

**7 BRAHMS: SYMPHONY NO. 1** LPO/ALSOP NAXOS 8.557428

**8 RAWSTHORNE: SYMPHONIES NOS 1-3** BOURNEMOUTH SO/LLOYD-JONES NAXOS 8.557480

**9 BEETHOVEN: THE LATE STRING QUARTETS** TAKACS QUARTET DECCA 470 8492

**10 TAVENER: THE VEIL OF THE TEMPLE** RCA RED SEAL 82876 66154 2

**11 MAGDALENA KOZENA: LAMENTO MUSICA ANTIQUA** KÖLN/GOEBEL DG ARCHIV 474 1942

**12 (9) SIMON RATTLE: ON EMI CLASSICS** EMI 586 5012

**13 TIPPETT: A CHILD OF OUR TIME** CBSO/TIPPETT NAXOS 8.557570

**14 BRITISH PIANO CONCERTOS** DONOHOE/NORTHERN SINFONIA NAXOS 8.557290

**15 JS BACH: CANTATAS, VOL. 1** MONTEVERDI CHOIR/GARDINER SDG SDG101

**16 VANESSA MAE: CHOREOGRAPHY** SONY SK90895

**17 ELGAR: PIANO CONCERTO** NORRIS; BBC CONCERT/LLOYD-JONES DUTTON CDLX 7148

**18 (2) VIVALDI II** NIGEL KENNEDY EMI 557 8592

**19 (7) GLASS: SYMPHONIES NOS 2 & 3** BOURNEMOUTH SO/ALSOP NAXOS 8.559202

**20 (5) JAMES GALWAY: WINGS OF SONG** DG 477 5236