



Daniel Müller-Schott Britten Prokofiev Shostakovich THE CELLO SONATAS

On his latest chamber music CD, **Daniel Müller-Schott** has recorded THE CELLO SONATAS of **Benjamin Britten**, **Sergei Prokofiev** and **Dmitri Shostakovich** accompanied by the pianist **Francesco Piemontesi** from Locarno. "The three composers succeed in expressing the existential, the vital and the harrowing in the language of the cello and piano. It is often radicalism and reduction in music that forces us to ponder our own lives," says Müller-Schott. The CD is appearing under the Munich ORFEO label.

The present recording marks the end of Müller-Schott's Britten project. And this is not all, for the cellist has now committed to CD all the major Prokofiev and Shostakovich cello works as well.



Britten Prokofiev Shostakovich
The CELLO SONATAS

Daniel Müller-Schott, cello
Francesco Piemontesi, piano

Orfeo C 872151 A
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"For me, the fascination of the sonatas is directly tied to Slava Rostropovich's tireless efforts in the service of music – I am reminded particularly of his personal friendships with Britten, Prokofiev and Shostakovich without which so many works would never have come about. Slava's influence has left its mark on me in many ways. It was he who inspired me as a young, 17-year-old musician to play the works of these great composers as often as possible."

Britten wrote the sonata in C major in 1961, the same year as the premiere of his magnum opus, the War Requiem. It was Britten's first of the total of five cello works that he dedicated to Rostropovich. The sonata consists of five very characteristic movements, an allegory on or an attempt to convert Rostropovich's personality and cello playing into notes – this, at any rate, is the interpretation of some of Britten's biographers.

Shostakovich's D minor sonata was composed in 1934, a period in which the composer was still enjoying success before falling from grace in the Soviet Union virtually overnight two years later. Unlike his highly expressive opera Lady Macbeth, the four-movement work is composed in the Neo-Classical style and stays within traditional bounds without avant-garde diversions.

Sergei Prokofiev's three-movement sonata is distinguished primarily by its leisurely pace with an emphasis on plain and lyrical themes. For the first performances, Sviatoslav Richter sat at the piano at the composer's special request, while the cello was entrusted to Mstislav Rostropovich, who was just embarking on his career. The composer was so impressed by the latter's virtuosity and tonal richness that he composed further cello works and dedicated them to him.

Daniel Müller-Schott and **Francesco Piemontesi** share an artistic partnership of many years' standing. The cellist first heard the pianist many years ago during the Clara Haskil Piano Competition. The duo has given several concerts of works by Beethoven, Britten and Shostakovich. The idea of getting together to record this CD and thus round off Müller-Schott's Britten cycle is the outcome of their productive cooperation. The two artists are united by their fascination for the technical and musical challenges of these three extraordinary sonatas of the 20th century.

Further information and photographic material for download:

www.thecellist.com

www.francescopiemontesi.com

Daniel Müller-Schott and Francesco Piemontesi live:

04.08.15

Nymphenburger Sommer

Munich, Nymphenburg castle

Beethoven No. 2 G minor op. 5/2, Shostakovich Sonata for cello and piano

Schumann Adagio and Allegro op.70, Brahms Sonata No. 2 F major op. 99

07.08.15

Rheingau-Musikfestival

Geisenheim, Johannisberg

Beethoven No. 2 G minor op. 5/2, Shostakovich Sonata for cello and piano

Brahms Sonata No. 2 F major op. 99

Kind regards,

Anke Kienitz-Kirk

Kulturmanagement

