

YEGOR DYACHKOV

Cellist

"Dyachkov makes sure there are moments to wonder at. His tone is beautiful, each note is exquisitely, easily placed, and he has a way of seeing a phrase, however long, as a whole and delivering it in one shapely, perfect gesture."

—Toronto Globe and Mail, November 2007

"Montreal cellist Dyachkov was the soloist [in Shostakovich's First Cello Concerto] who gave us an intense, beautiful performance, with a solo cadenza that was a gripping, more than speech-like soliloquy. It rang from his strings and the orchestra's response was heartfelt and deft..."

—Vancouver Sun, November 2006

"Yegor Dyachkov, the Russian-born soloist who now lives in Canada, was spectacular [in Shostakovich's First Cello Concerto]. From the opening four-note theme played by unaccompanied cello, he displayed a driving, insistent force that single-handedly propelled the movement to its end. Dyachkov's intonation is impeccable. His tone is gorgeous and varied and his playing is effortless..."

The slow second movement showed Dyachkov at his very best. Supported by a spare orchestral accompaniment, he served up a lyrical, singing tone that was never forced.

The movement features an achingly beautiful high melody and a closing section of haunting, eery harmonics. Dyachkov played the following cadenza movement with unhurried sensitivity, allowing the music time to breathe. The effect was magical.

The final movement returned to the insistent energy of the first movement. The cellist continued his virtuosic acrobatics, egged on by a driving orchestral accompaniment, and earned himself a deserved standing ovation."

—The Record, Kitchener, Ontario, December 2005

"Camille Saint-Saëns' Cello Concerto No.1 in A Minor featured Yegor Dyachkov in the solo role. This concerto is more elegant than Ravel's, its formal innovations more firmly anchored in classical conventions. But its sleek structure contains a powerful engine. Dyachkov and the orchestra connected with this power and rode smoothly and compellingly through the piece. They delighted us most in the exquisite minuet through which the cello wove a dark ribbon of extended melody."

—Toronto Star, August 2005

CD Review

Scenes de Russie. Yegor Dyachkov, cello, Jean Saulnier, piano (Analekta)

"This disc convincingly makes chamber music of ballet — sometimes with the authority of the composer (the Adagio from Prokofiev's *Cendrillon* and Stravinsky's *Pulcinella Suite*). Prokofiev's familiar *Romeo and Juliet* music sounds like a high-end sonata as performed by the Montreal cello-and-piano team of Yegor Dyachkov and Jean Saulnier (the latter did most of the arranging). Feeling is tempered with intelligence and the balance of the two artists (Dyachkov velvety and Saulnier crystalline) is consistently just. There is an aura of integrity around this program, superbly recorded at the *Domaine Forget*."

—Montréal Gazette, April 2006