MOSCOW STATE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Pavel Kogan, Music Director

The Moscow State Symphony Orchestra, founded in 1943, has been acclaimed as one of the greatest orchestras from a cultural tradition rich with extraordinary symphonic ensembles.

The orchestra’s founder and first Musical Director was Nikolai Anosov, one of the most outstanding musicians of his time, whose son, Gennadi Rozhdestvensky, became, in turn, one of Russia’s most famous conductors. Under the subsequent leadership of Lev Ginzburg, the Moscow State Symphony Orchestra developed close relationships with the most prominent Russian Twentieth Century musicians and composers, including Prokofiev and Shostakovich. The orchestra also had the distinction of performing under the directorship of the well-known Soviet woman conductor, Veronika Dudarova.

Since Pavel Kogan assumed the positions of Music Director and Chief Conductor of the Moscow State Symphony Orchestra in 1989, the orchestra has steadily expanded its repertoire beyond the classics of Russian and Western symphonic literature to include contemporary compositions from both Russia and abroad.

Apart from its regular appearances at the Great Hall of the Moscow Conservatory and performances throughout Russia, the Moscow State Symphony Orchestra has also been enthusiastically received throughout the major musical centers of the world. The orchestra has engaged in extensive international touring, playing from 20 to 50 concerts abroad each year and performing in the most prestigious concert halls of Germany, Switzerland, Austria, the United Kingdom, Italy, Spain, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Japan, Hong Kong, South Korea, and Australia.

The Moscow State Symphony Orchestra also performs regularly at major Russian and European festivals including the Moscow Autumn Festival, the Russian Winter Festival, St. Petersburg White Nights, the Moscow Stars Festival, Prague Spring, and festivals in Helsinki, Dubrovnik, Munich, Flanders, Saint-Remier, and elsewhere.
The Moscow State Symphony Orchestra is the only Moscow orchestra in recent years to perform the full cycle of Beethoven Symphonies in Moscow. The event was broadcast throughout Russia on Russian television. Moscow State Symphony Orchestra subscription concerts in Moscow are always sold out.

On 20 December 1993 the Orchestra celebrated its 50th Anniversary in Moscow with a gala concert at the Moscow Conservatory.

PAVEL KOGAN

Music Director and Chief Conductor

PAVEL KOGAN, son of world famous Russian musicians Leonid Kogan and Elizaveta Gilels, began his musical studies at the prestigious Central Music School in Moscow and continued at the Moscow Conservatory. He studied violin with the great pedagogue Yuri Yankelevich and conducting with Lev Ginzburg and Ilya Musin.

In 1970, at the age of eighteen, Pavel Kogan won First Prize and Gold Medal at the Sibelius International Violin Competition in Helsinki, Finland. Concert tours followed throughout Russia, Europe, Japan and the United States, in recital and as orchestral soloist. In 1974, Pavel Kogan made his conducting debut with the Leningrad Philharmonic Orchestra. Now considered one of the top conductors of Russia, he regularly conducts the major orchestras of Russia and appears frequently with the leading orchestras of Europe and the United States. He is also a frequent guest at such festivals as Prague Spring, Helsinki, Dubrovnik, Flanders and St. Petersburg White Nights. In 1983, Pavel Kogan had the honor of being invited by the legendary Evgeni Mravinsky to conduct the Leningrad Philharmonic on a triumphant tour in Spain.

From 1988 to 1990 Pavel Kogan was Music Director and Chief Conductor of Zagreb Philharmonic Orchestra. As permanent conductor of the Bolshoi Opera in Moscow, he opened the 1988/1989 season with a new production of La Traviata.

In May 1989, Pavel Kogan was appointed Music Director and Chief Conductor of Moscow State Symphony Orchestra. His first concert in Moscow as Chief Conductor with this orchestra was recorded alive for RCA/Melodia. Other recordings include the complete Tchaikovsky Symphonies, Prokofiev Symphonies 1, 5 and 6, and works by Rachmaninov and others.

Pavel Kogan has extensively developed the Moscow State Symphony’s repertoire beyond the traditional Russian classics with which it is closely associated, to include more modern and contemporary works by composers such as...
Bartok, Bruckner, Respigi, Saint-Saens, Schoenberg, Bernstein and Scott Joplin. In recent years, Maestro Kogan has become interested in programming cyclical works. In the 1994-95 season, under his baton, the Moscow State Symphony Orchestra performed the complete symphonies of Beethoven. In 1995-96, and continued in 1996-97, he accomplished the first performance in Russia of the complete symphonies and vocal cycles of Gustav Mahler.

Since that time, and in recent years, the Moscow State Symphony Orchestra led by Pavel Kogan has toured extensively in Europe, the United States, and the Far East and has released numerous recordings on CD.