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MCD 61451

MOISEYEV

The MOISEYEV DANCE ENSEMBLE

Recorded under the Personal Supervision of Igor Moiseyev



A MONITOR INTERNATIONAL COMPACT DISC

THE DANCE A LA MOISEYEV

An Evaluation by John Martin

What the Moiseyev company shows us is not just folk dance by any means. A sophisticated artist has turned his attention to the wealth of unsophisticated material that comprises that field and transformed it into a warm and responsive theatrical medium. Igor Moiseyev, himself a former dancer in the classic Bolshoi company and a choreographer of many works for its repertoire, had the brilliant inspiration to undertake this process nearly twenty-five years ago.

Moiseyev's Approach

What he has tried to do with it is in his own words "to present a synthesis and summary of a national character in which to reveal "the soul of the people." For him folk dancing is "a living process," which invites him to turn away from the mere preservation and practice of old forms to the creation of new works of art in terms of that timeless basic material of movement which stems from folk rituals and games.

Of the repertoire some of the numbers are highly selective arrangements and formalizations of "authentic" folk dances. The hand of the choreographer, however, is clearly seen in them, for unlike most authentic folk material, they have a beginning, a middle and an end. Entrances are arranged and groups are juxtaposed with an awareness of theatrical values as well as of fundamental compositional considerations. Thus we have suites of dances from Great Russia, from the Ukraine, from Moldavia, which maintain all the flavor and outward appearance of the most authentic dances you could ask for; yet they are beautifully put together as only an artist of choreographic gifts could do. In addition, there are dances that are clearly stepped up from their origins or frankly composed from scratch, using only genuine folk impulse and ingredients in their creative development.

Creative Variants

As for the dancers there can only be the most enthusiastic praise. They are, in a word, terrific. For all their sense of folk style, and the variations that involves, they work in terms of common technique. Clearly they are trained in classic ballet, though its style never intrudes for an instant. But the feet are always beautifully stretched, the line is always good, the phrase is always sustained.

If they can move like animated lightning, and jump and turn and spin like dervishes, they can also dance with an incredibly slow legato, which with its air of unhurried leisure is wonderfully beautiful. There is apparently not a bone in anyone's leg, or a muscle anywhere subject to fatigue, or any indication that such a word as anemia exists in the Russian dictionary. Nobody even breathes heavily, in spite of the unparalleled technical brilliance that they are all called upon to exhibit throughout the evening.

And what a showman Moiseyev is! He knows a good trick when he sees it, and he manages to make it altogether legitimate. Sometimes he goes unabashedly Roxy, with human sun-flower beds and the like, but it is done with such naive pleasure that it becomes delightful, however much you may choose to chuckle behind your hand. At other times he can catapult a boy, doing a split in the air, high over the heads of a line of girls, and keep you from seeing how he has done it.

It is too bad not to be able to single out individuals for praise in so large, gregarious and kaleidoscopic an ensemble. There are any number of pretty and spirited girls who cannot be identified as well as a host of funny, genial and athletic boys who carry on like crazy. A wonderful evening!

Mr. Martin was the distinguished dance critic of The New York Times. This article is reprinted by permission of The New York Times.

The MOISEYEV DANCE ENSEMBLE

*Orchestra of the MOISEYEV DANCE ENSEMBLE
conducted by Samson Galperin and Nikolai Nekrasov*

Recorded under the Personal Supervision Of Igor Moiseyev

1. **MOLDAVIAN SUITE "ZHOK"** 8:51
 - A) Doina-Hora 4:20
 - B) Chiocarlia 2:18
 - C) Zhok 2:13
2. **HOPAK** (Ukrainian Dance) 3:00
3. **CHABANY** (Dance of the Karabakh Shepherds) 3:45
4. **BRIUL** (Moldavian Dance) 4:53
5. **VENZELYA** (Russian Dance) 3:45
6. **TABAKARYASKA** (Moldavian Dance) 2:24
7. **"INTRODUCTION" and "SUMMER" from the Russian Suite "The Seasons"** 4:42
8. **OVER THE LEGS** (Estonian Polka) 2:45
9. **"YUROCHKA"** (Byelorussian Dance) 3:10
10. **TSIGANY** (Gypsies) 7:25
11. **GREEN GRASS** (from the "Russian Suite") 1:45
12. **SNOW MAIDEN** (Russian Fairy Tale) 7:20

Total Playing Time: 54:26



1. **MOLDAVIAN SUITE "ZHOK"**
A) Doina-Hora B) Chiocarlia C) Zhok
2. **HOPAK** (Ukrainian Dance)
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The
MOISEYEV
Dance Ensemble

Recorded under the
Personal Supervision of
Igor Moiseyev

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COMPACT
disc
DIGITAL AUDIO

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