

**Military tumult and sonic euphoria
during the time of the ‘Great Terror’**



**VIDEO auf
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Prokofiev Cantata for the 20th Anniversary of the **October Revolution**

Staatskapelle Weimar

Ernst Senff Chor Berlin • members of the Luftwaffenmusikkorps Erfurt

Kirill Karabits

Prokofiev's 1937 Cantata for the 20th Anniversary of the October Revolution sets – during the ‘Great Terror’ – central texts by Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin on a gigantic choral and orchestral scale. Alongside military tumult and sonic euphoria, the score also offers three instrumental movements as moments of reflection. An exceptional historical document, music of the highest compositional level.

Art at the time of the 'Great Terror': Prokofiev's Cantata for the 20th Anniversary of the October Revolution

The twentieth anniversary of the October Revolution made the year 1937 a high point of Soviet culture. At the same time, the 'Great Terror' under Stalin reached its gruesome peak. Prokofiev, who settled permanently in Moscow in 1936, knew which country he had entered. The first position amongst Soviet composers seemed to have been vacated when Shostakovich had become a non-person following the *Pravda* article *Muddle instead of Music*. Prokofiev indicated his cooperation: he was determined to become a Soviet composer. In the Cantata for the 20th Anniversary of the October Revolution he played out his genuine enthusiasm for mass scorings, combining colossal symphonic forces with a double choir, a brass band, an accordion ensemble and a gigantic percussion section. The cantata oscillates between revolutionary vehemence and lyrical melodies, between Russian folklore and riotous military tumult.

An exceptional historical document of the highest compositional level – released in the year of the 100th anniversary of the October Revolution.

Kirill Karabits, Music Director of the Deutsches Nationaltheater and Staatskapelle Weimar, realises this monumental work with the Staatskapelle Weimar, the Ernst Senff Chor Berlin and members of the Erfurt Air Force Band. Also called into action are a nine-piece percussion section, an accordion quartet, gun shots, alarm sirens etc. whilst the conductor himself uses a megaphone to give a rousing rendition of the texts.



Kirill Karabits

Marketing / Promotion

- exceptional repertoire with monumental and unusual forces: orchestra, choir, nine-piece percussion section, accordion quartet, military brass, gun shots, alarm sirens etc.
- a welcome return by Kirill Karabits, this time with the Staatskapelle Weimar
- remarkable historical document
- music of the highest compositional level
- digital booklet
- HD downloads
- EPK on YouTube
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