

“LUGANSKY IS AN EXCEPTIONAL BRAHMSIAN, ASSERTIVE IN ARTICULATION, FORTHRIGHT YET DARKLY POETIC IN HIS APPROACH... THRILLING IN [HIS] MUSCULARITY AND PRECISION.”

THE GUARDIAN



“No matter how many times you have heard it; no matter which recordings you possess; no matter your favourites, Rachmaninov’s own performance included; nothing I have heard in any version of this awesome concerto could eclipse the astounding performance on Saturday from Lugansky. Lugansky found all the passion and strong poetry in the piece, tempered it with his own elegance of delivery... This was a performance in a million...”

THE HERALD

“Pianist Nikolai Lugansky delivered an astonishing Rachmaninoff Concerto No. 3. He neither fought against nor tried to tame this fearsome beast; rather he rode it, showed it off and let it roar. There was never any banging; his fingers were steel mallets or gossamer butterflies, as needed, and he clearly knew, phrase by phrase, whether he was playing solo or chamber music..”

THE WASHINGTON POST

“Any critic who rolls his eyes about confronting yet another Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto No. 3 needs to experience the piece at the artistic confluence of Charles Dutoit, pianist Nikolai Lugansky, and the Philadelphia Orchestra. A great interpretation justifies its own existence.”

THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER



Possessing a soulful stage presence, the young pianist has over thirty major concertos in his repertoire, ranging from Bach to Rachmaninov. Mr. Lugansky has been a prizewinner in several international competitions, including the International Bach Competition in Leipzig in 1988, the All-Union Rachmaninoff Competition in 1990 and the Tchaikovsky International Competition in 1994. Concerto highlights of the 2014/15 season and beyond include returns to the London Philharmonic Orchestra, Philharmonia Orchestra, Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, Budapest Festival Orchestra, Orchestre symphonique de Montréal and Orchestre de Paris. Lugansky also toured with the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande (Charles Dutoit) in the US and the Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra (Vasily Petrenko), Russian National Orchestra (Mikhail Pletnev) and St Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra (Yuri Temirkanov).

“The virtuoso Russian pianist Nikolai Lugansky was the impressive soloist in the Rachmaninoff...In the opening of the concerto, which begins with a series of ominous chords that grow in sound and intensity, Mr. Lugansky voiced each one to highlight harmonic intricacies. And when the surging main theme broke out in the orchestra, he brought penetrating sound and sweep to the rippling piano arpeggios that accompany the melody.” THE NEW YORK TIMES