

Preface to the reprint · Vorwort zum Nachdruck

Shortly after Sergei Prokofiev's death, the publishing house Edition Peters in Leipzig decided to produce a selection of Prokofiev's works from the state-owned Soviet music publishing house Muzgiz in Moscow as licensed editions for the socialist countries. The initiative was taken by the then chief editor Wilhelm Weismann, who entrusted the management to the editor Christoph Hellmundt. Hellmundt had personal contacts with David Oistrakh, Alfred Schnittke and many others, but not with Prokofiev himself.

The Prokofiev editions were published by Edition Peters from 1956 to around 1974 in new engravings. In 1974, the German Democratic Republic acceded to the 1952 Universal Copyright Convention, followed by the Soviet Union in 1975, so that from then on the Soviet editions were internationally protected. The existing editions remained part of the publisher's catalogue until German reunification in 1990, after which the rights were transferred in full to the publisher Sikorski.

Today these editions can contribute to the dissemination of Sergei Prokofiev's works once again and continue as part of the rich history of the Edition Peters' catalogue.

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After Prokofiev's move to the Soviet Union in May 1936, earlier stylistic characteristics of his Russian period returned to his compositions: robust power, unyielding rhythm and broad flow. The three so-called War Sonatas Nos. 6–8, whose movements and motifs are closely related to or derive from the same stock of ideas, were written within this framework. They were composed in the years 1939–44, while Prokofiev was evacuated from Moscow to Kazakhstan and the Caucasus. The reference to the siege of Leningrad was a prerequisite for the compositions' success with the musical public. However, they continue the tradition of Beethoven rather than conforming to the stylistic maxims of 'socialist realism' in force at the time.

The Sonata No. 9 from 1947 is Prokofiev's last originally composed and completed piano work. It was premiered by the leading Soviet pianist Svyatoslav Richter. The order of the four movements is only faintly reminiscent of the characteristics of the three so-called War Sonatas Nos. 6–8, Op. 82–84. As in Sonata No. 6 Op. 82, the slow movement, with its alternating scherzo, is in third place. The character of this almost unknown sonata fluctuates between contemplative, restrained, balanced and 'uniform'.

Dresden, February 2024

Klaus Burmeister
Editor of Edition Peters Leipzig,
1973–1993

Der Verlag VEB Edition Peters in Leipzig beschloss kurz nach dem Tod Sergej Prokofjews, gemeinfreie Drucke aus dem staatlichen sowjetischen Musikverlag Muzgiz in Moskau als Lizenzausgaben für die sozialistischen Länder zu veröffentlichen. Die Initiative ergriff der damalige Chefflektor Wilhelm Weismann und übertrug die Leitung bald schon an den Lektor Christoph Hellmundt. Dieser hatte persönliche Kontakte zu David Oistrach, Alfred Schnittke und vielen anderen, jedoch nicht zu Prokofjew selbst.

So erschienen die Prokofjew-Ausgaben in der Edition Peters in den Jahren von 1956 bis etwa 1974 in neuen Leipziger Stichen. 1974 trat die Deutsche Demokratische Republik dem Welturheberrechtsabkommen von 1952 bei, die Sowjetunion folgte 1975, so dass ab diesem Zeitpunkt die sowjetischen Ausgaben international geschützt waren. Die existenten Ausgaben waren Teil des Verlagskataloges bis zur deutschen Wiedervereinigung 1990, danach gingen die Rechte vollständig an den Verlag Sikorski über.

Heute können diese Ausgaben erneut zur Verbreitung der Werke Sergej Prokofjews beitragen und ein Stück der reichen Geschichte des Peters-Katalogs weiterführen.

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Nach Prokofjews Übersiedlung in die Sowjetunion im Mai 1936 kehrten in seine Kompositionen frühere Stileigenarten seiner russischen Zeit zurück: robuste Kraft, unnachgiebiger Rhythmus und breites Fließen. In diesem Gefüge entstanden die drei sogenannten Kriegssonaten Nr. 6–8, deren Sätze und Motive eng verwandt sind bzw. aus demselben Ideenvorrat stammen. Sie entstanden in den Jahren 1939–1944, während Prokofjew aus Moskau nach Kasachstan und in den Kaukasus evakuiert wurde. Der Bezug zur Belagerung Leningrads war Voraussetzung für den Erfolg der Kompositionen in der Musiköffentlichkeit. Sie führen allerdings eher die Tradition Beethovens fort, als dass sie den seinerzeit geltenden stilistischen Maximen des „sozialistischen Realismus“ entsprechen.

Die Sonate Nr. 9 aus dem Jahr 1947 ist Prokofjews letztes neu entstandenes und abgeschlossenes Klavierwerk. Es wurde vom führenden sowjetischen Pianisten Swjatoslaw Richter uraufgeführt. Die vier Sätze in zyklischer Verbindung erinnern nur schwach an die konsequente Charakteristik der drei sogenannten Kriegssonaten Nr. 6–8 op. 82–84. Der langsame Satz mit alternierendem Scherzo steht wie in der Sonate Nr. 6 op. 82 an dritter Stelle. Der Charakter dieser nahezu unbekannten Sonate schwankt zwischen kontemplativ, verhalten, ausgeglichen und „gleichförmig“.

Dresden, Februar 2024

Klaus Burmeister
Lektor der Edition Peters Leipzig,
1973–1993

48 *rit.* Andantino
p legato
 3

52 *cresc.*
 3

55 *mf* *dim.*
 3

58 *p*
 3

62 *cresc.* *mf*
 3

65 *dim.* *rit.* Allegro I
p *f*
 12/8

130

Musical score for measures 130-131. Measure 130: Treble clef has a whole note chord (F#4, A4, C5) with a fermata. Bass clef has a continuous eighth-note accompaniment. Measure 131: Treble clef has a whole note chord (F#4, A4, C5) with a fermata. Bass clef continues the eighth-note accompaniment.

131

Musical score for measures 131-132. Measure 131: Treble clef has a whole note chord (F#4, A4, C5) with a fermata. Bass clef continues the eighth-note accompaniment. Measure 132: Treble clef has a whole note chord (F#4, A4, C5) with a fermata. Bass clef continues the eighth-note accompaniment.

132

Musical score for measures 132-136. Measure 132: Treble clef has a whole note chord (F#4, A4, C5) with a fermata. Bass clef has a whole note chord (F#3, A3, C4) with a fermata. Measure 133: Treble clef has a whole note chord (F#4, A4, C5) with a fermata. Bass clef has a whole note chord (F#3, A3, C4) with a fermata. Measure 134: Treble clef has a whole note chord (F#4, A4, C5) with a fermata. Bass clef has a whole note chord (F#3, A3, C4) with a fermata. Measure 135: Treble clef has a whole note chord (F#4, A4, C5) with a fermata. Bass clef has a whole note chord (F#3, A3, C4) with a fermata. Measure 136: Treble clef has a whole note chord (F#4, A4, C5) with a fermata. Bass clef has a whole note chord (F#3, A3, C4) with a fermata.

136

pp da lontano *poco cresc.* *dim.*

Musical score for measures 136-141. Measure 136: Treble clef has a whole note chord (F#4, A4, C5) with a fermata. Bass clef has a whole note chord (F#3, A3, C4) with a fermata. Measure 137: Treble clef has a whole note chord (F#4, A4, C5) with a fermata. Bass clef has a whole note chord (F#3, A3, C4) with a fermata. Measure 138: Treble clef has a whole note chord (F#4, A4, C5) with a fermata. Bass clef has a whole note chord (F#3, A3, C4) with a fermata. Measure 139: Treble clef has a whole note chord (F#4, A4, C5) with a fermata. Bass clef has a whole note chord (F#3, A3, C4) with a fermata. Measure 140: Treble clef has a whole note chord (F#4, A4, C5) with a fermata. Bass clef has a whole note chord (F#3, A3, C4) with a fermata. Measure 141: Treble clef has a whole note chord (F#4, A4, C5) with a fermata. Bass clef has a whole note chord (F#3, A3, C4) with a fermata.

141

mf *dim.* *p*

Musical score for measures 141-145. Measure 141: Treble clef has a whole note chord (F#4, A4, C5) with a fermata. Bass clef has a whole note chord (F#3, A3, C4) with a fermata. Measure 142: Treble clef has a whole note chord (F#4, A4, C5) with a fermata. Bass clef has a whole note chord (F#3, A3, C4) with a fermata. Measure 143: Treble clef has a whole note chord (F#4, A4, C5) with a fermata. Bass clef has a whole note chord (F#3, A3, C4) with a fermata. Measure 144: Treble clef has a whole note chord (F#4, A4, C5) with a fermata. Bass clef has a whole note chord (F#3, A3, C4) with a fermata. Measure 145: Treble clef has a whole note chord (F#4, A4, C5) with a fermata. Bass clef has a whole note chord (F#3, A3, C4) with a fermata.