



The Russian Seven-String on Seven CDs “The Russian Guitar” box set to be released by IARMAC

IARMAC Co-founder and artistic director Oleg Timofeyev, along with his closest colleagues, is back in the recording studios. Completely unprecedented in its ambition and scope, the seven-CD box set titled “The Russian Guitar” will include the best of solo and ensemble music from the Russian Golden Age (1799-ca. 1860). All of the CDs will be recorded by the Dorian Label, the same one that released Timofeyev’s pioneering “Golden Age of the Russian Guitar” CDs in 1999.

2009 is the tenth anniversary of the release of “Golden Age,” which for the first time in history offered an assortment of early 19th-century Russian guitar music performed from a historically informed perspective. In the ten years since this CD’s release, Timofeyev has been gearing up for a project like “The Russian Guitar” box set, fine-tuning the instruments played and the repertoire and techniques used. The beautiful guitars recorded on these CD’s represent more power and flexibility than was capable ten years ago.

A couple of words on this label: symbolically, it is the same as ten years ago, but under the new ownership, the company has become more ambitious in engaging bold and innovative projects, like “The Russian Guitar”. For these recording sessions, the musicians will pay several visits to the spectacular mansion where the label is located. There will be three intense sessions in total, and when it is finalized, the seven CDs will appear in an attractive box set, each disc labeled as follows:

1. Earliest pieces, 1799-1820
2. Music by A. Sychra
3. More music by A. Sychra
4. Music by M. Vysotsky
5. Music by S. Aksionov and A. Vetrov (Vysotsky’s teacher and student, respectively)
6. The True Romantics (Alexandrov, Sarenko, Zimmerman)
7. Chamber music with violin, piano, and voice

The musicians involved with this project include Timofeyev, John Schniederma, and Dan Caraway on Russian seven-string guitar; Anne Harley, soprano; Etienne Abelin, violin; and the guest fortepianist, the famous Kenneth Slowik.