

Thank you for the feast!

This is the word to describe our sincere admiration for the work of Marina Liadova and her colleagues, which resulted in the concert presented during the giddy and mysterious Halloween weekend. Theatrical surprises started “at the coat rack”, where we were greeted by six-foot tall puppet. It definitely set up the right mood for the spectator of any age.

Later the music brought more surprises: a very interesting choice of repertoire, comments in Russian and English, and two original “guests” – Kikimora and Baba Yaga, the unique characters of the Russian and, by now, American folklore.

The pleasant surprises kept coming. The overall harmonious combination of the sounds and the visual images was definitely enhanced by the charming voice of a well known singer Lynne Gardow. It was her touching rendition of a famous art song “O Don’t Sing, Beautiful Maiden, Your Sad Songs of Georgia to Me” that carried us back for a moment to the land which to us is so far away now...

We will be waiting for more feasts coming from Marina Liadova and her creative team.

Natasha Vazemiller

On November 2 we had a chance to hear a concert of Russian music at MacPhail Center. It was a Halloween concert. The Artistic Director of the project Marina Liadova was able to chose exciting music from the Russian classical repertoire, while enhancing the performance with the live characters from Russian fairy tales. The combination of the professional orchestral sound and the images coming to life in the midst of the audience left an unforgettable impression.

We joined other members of the audience in genuine applause at the end of the concert, thanking the performers and the organizers of this event, and we will look forward to attend more performances from this team led by Marina Liadova, who definitely has a taste when it comes to program choices.

Asja Viner and David Pruzhanskiy

I attended a wonderful concert on November 2 at MacPhail Center for Music. It was a concert of orchestral

***miniatures written by my favorite Russian composers
(Tchaikovsky, Shostakovich, Rachmaninov, etc.)***

It was a very interesting program. The orchestra sounded great, and Marina Liadova did a wonderful job as a conductor. I would like to come back for another pleasant evening like this. All my friends had a nice time. I wish the entire ensemble many creative successes in the future!

Galina Koltun

Thank you for magic!

All three generations of our family enjoyed the concert. Everyone discovered something new, while reconnecting with familiar music and favorite composers.

This is an unusual and fresh page in cultural, musical and educational life of the Twin Cities.

We will be eagerly awaiting your next performance.

Pekurovsky family

We are very glad that we had a chance to come to the Halloween concert “Whimsical Characters in Russian Orchestral Music” on November 2.

There was a wonderful atmosphere from the very beginning. For starters, we were greeted by a giant puppet of Baba Yaga, sitting on the steps. Clever programs were printed like a two-sided booklet in English and Russian. The orchestra, conducted by Marina Liadova, beautifully played the fragments from the Russian repertoire – all of them unique, ironic and quite memorable. The commentary of two charming hostesses – Shana Eisenberg (in English) and Maria Petrenko (in Russian) made the connection between the musicians and the audience so much more meaningful. There was a beautiful, touching performance of two Russian art songs by the American soprano Lynne Gardow. There were even “live” characters from the Russian fairy tales (Kikimora and Baba Yaga), and this was a great reminder of the similarities in humor found in both cultures.

Thank you very much for a nice evening, and we will look forward to another concert soon.

Rose and Marat Feygin

The concert at MacPhail center on November 2 was programmed very well. There were bright orchestral pieces written by Tchaikovsky, Liadov, Glazunov and other classical composers. There was also music by the great authors of the Soviet period: Shostakovich, Prokofiev and Khachaturian. There were impressive renditions of the *Flight of the Bumblebee* by Rimsky-Korsakov, *Kikimora* by Liadov, *Masquerade Waltz* by Khachaturian. I would particularly like to mention a nice sound of the orchestra under the direction of Marina Liadova. It was my first encounter with her conducting, and I would like to comment on her emotional approach, her thorough understanding of the character of the music, as well as the ability to inspire the musicians in the orchestra.

I want to wish Marina more creative accomplishments and successes in her future endeavors.

Aleksandr Daylis

For people like us, who were raised on Russian music and literature, this concert was a big event. The orchestra of great musicians under the direction of Marina Liadova did a wonderful job playing Russian classical repertoire, with all the nuances and colorful details in place. An original decision was made regarding hosting the concert in two languages, with the commentaries in English and in Russian. These commentaries, as well as the live characters from the fairy tales, made the performance quite enjoyable for the children, too, even for those of them who did not have any previous experience attending a classical concert.

Our wish is that this concert begins a new tradition popularizing Russian music. We are grateful to Marina and her colleagues for the idea and for the realization of this project.

Rose and Leonid Kerbel

