



*International
Presentations of
Music & Dance*

THE UNIVERSITY MUSICAL SOCIETY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Sofia Philharmonic Orchestra

KONSTANTIN ILIEV

Conductor

MINCHO MINCHEV, *Violinist*

THURSDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 4, 1982, AT 8:30

HILL AUDITORIUM, ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

P R O G R A M

Bulgarian Rhapsody *Vardar*, Op. 16 VLADIGEROV

Concerto in D major, Op. 35, for Violin and Orchestra TCHAIKOVSKY

Allegro moderato

Canzonetta: andante

Finale: allegro vivacissimo

MINCHO MINCHEV

I N T E R M I S S I O N

Symphony No. 8 in G major, Op. 88 DVOŘÁK

Allegro con brio

Adagio

Allegro grazioso

Allegro ma non troppo

The next concert in this series is Friday, March 5, when Erich Bergel conducts the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, with pianist Radu Lupu, in Schubert's "Unfinished" Symphony, Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 2, and Lutoslawski's Concerto for Orchestra.

Program Note

The Bulgarian Rhapsody *Vardar*, by Pancho Vladigerov (1899-1978), is among his earliest works, composed in 1922 for violin and piano and then scored for full symphony in 1928. Each note of its complex musical score expresses the composer's passionate love for his native land and his people. The power of the national spirit is felt with the solemn intonations of the main theme of the Rhapsody, the song "A Cry Was Heard." The strong emotional effect of this music lies in its inseparable link with Bulgarian folk music. Through a rhapsodic narration, Vladigerov displays the lyricism and vitality of the folk spirit in the leading themes of the middle section; the complex rhythmic and modal changes strengthen the expressiveness of the thematic context. The orchestration is continually enriched in tone color until it reaches the climax of the Rhapsody, when the main theme is heard, stressing the optimism of the Bulgarian and the power and grandeur of his homeland, in the apotheosis of a hymn.

The Sofia Philharmonic, founded in 1928, has become one of Europe's finest symphony orchestras, critically acclaimed for its performances in its native country and abroad. Early tours took the musicians to Italy, Romania, and Yugoslavia, and since 1955 the artists have visited twenty-two European countries. The Philharmonic first visited the United States in 1978, and appears this evening during its second U.S. tour which began last month. The Philharmonic has attracted world-famous guest conductors such as Gennady Rozhdestvensky, Karel Ancerl, Cyril Kondrashin, and John Pritchard; among its guest soloists have been David Oistrakh, Yehudi Menuhin, Sviatoslav Richter, Leonid Kogan, Emil Gilels, Ruggiero Ricci, and Alexis Weissenberg. The Philharmonic was awarded the Georgi Dimitrov Order, the highest Bulgarian cultural citation, an exceptionally meaningful award to the orchestra members who are all, without exception, graduates of the Bulgarian State Conservatory.

Konstantin Iliev, born in 1924 in Sofia, was appointed Principal Conductor of the Sofia Philharmonic in 1956. In addition to this post, he appears as guest conductor with major European orchestras and at international music festivals in Athens, Budapest, Milan, Berlin, Istanbul, and at the Prague Spring Festival. Parallel with his conducting achievements, Mr. Iliev is a composer whose works include five symphonies, four string quartets, two oratorios, two operas, and cantatas for acappella choir. Several of his works have been awarded prizes by the Union of Bulgarian Composers, Radio Sofia, and UNESCO. He has been given the title "People's Artist" and twice was awarded the Dimitrov Prize, each honor being the highest awarded in Bulgarian culture.

Mincho Minchev ranks among Europe's most outstanding violinists and was hailed as "a musician of the highest order" when he toured the United States in 1978 as soloist with the Sofia Philharmonic. He is the recipient of several top prizes in Bulgaria, a top prize at the International Wieniawski Competition in Warsaw, Second Prize (first, not awarded) at the International Paganini Competition in Genoa in 1970, and First Prize at the Carl Flesch Competition in London in 1972. Born in 1950 in Gabrova, Mr. Minchev gave his first concert at the age of nine, and later studied at the Bulgarian State Conservatory.

All artists are appearing in Ann Arbor this evening for the first time.

Founders Day Concert – The Festival Chorus

Sunday, February 14 at 4:00 p.m. in Hill Auditorium

Program includes three Coronation Anthems by Handel, three songs by conductor Donald Bryant set to poetry of Czeslaw Milosz, and other choral works by Gallus, Palestrina, Rossini, and Schubert. *Free admission.*

UNIVERSITY MUSICAL SOCIETY

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