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THE EXTRAORDINARY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE

GRAND COMPOSER  
AND THE

RED TAIL DICTATOR

# SHOSTAKOVICH AND STALIN

SOLOMON VOLKOV

AUTHOR OF  
ST. PETERSBURG: A CULTURAL HISTORY

TRANSLATED FROM THE RUSSIAN BY ANTONINA M. BOYD



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# Shostakovich And Stalin The Extraordinary Relationship Between The Great Composer And The Brutal Dictator

**Richard Taruskin**



## **Shostakovich And Stalin The Extraordinary Relationship Between The Great Composer And The Brutal Dictator:**

Shostakovich and Stalin Solomon Volkov, 2007-12-18 Music illuminates a person and provides him with his last hope even Stalin a butcher knew that So said the Russian composer Dmitri Shostakovich whose first compositions in the 1920s identified him as an avant garde wunderkind But that same singularity became a liability a decade later under the totalitarian rule of Stalin with his unpredictable grounds for the persecution of artists Solomon Volkov who cowrote Shostakovich s controversial 1979 memoir *Testimony* describes how this lethal uncertainty affected the composer s life and work Volkov an authority on Soviet Russian culture shows us the holy fool in Shostakovich the truth speaker who dared to challenge the supreme powers We see how Shostakovich struggled to remain faithful to himself in his music and how Stalin fueled that struggle one minute banning his work the next encouraging it We see how some of Shostakovich s contemporaries Mandelstam Bulgakov and Pasternak among them fell victim to Stalin s manipulations and how Shostakovich barely avoided the same fate And we see the psychological price he paid for what some perceived as self serving aloofness and others saw as rightfully defended individuality This is a revelatory account of the relationship between one of the twentieth century s greatest composers and one of its most infamous tyrants **Musical Lives and Times Examined** Richard

Taruskin, 2023-03-14 A gathering chiefly of talks given either by invitation or at conferences throughout the world over the last quarter century The topics range widely but recurrent themes include the place of classical music in contemporary society and culture the fraught relationship between aesthetics and ethics and the responsibilities of scholarship in an age of spin **The Firebird and the Fox** Jeffrey Brooks, 2019-10-24 A century of Russian artistic genius including literature art music and dance within the dynamic cultural ecosystem that shaped it *Symphony for the City of the Dead* M.T.

Anderson, 2017-02-07 Originally published Somerville Massachusetts Candlewick Press 2015 **Creative Union** Kiril Tomoff, 2018-11-15 Why did the Stalin era a period characterized by bureaucratic control and the reign of Socialist Realism in the arts witness such an extraordinary upsurge of musical creativity and the prominence of musicians in the cultural elite This is one of the questions that Kiril Tomoff seeks to answer in *Creative Union* the first book about any of the professional unions that dominated Soviet cultural life at the time Drawing on hitherto untapped archives he shows how the Union of Soviet Composers established control over the music profession and negotiated the relationship between composers and the Communist Party leadership Central to Tomoff s argument is the institutional authority and prestige that the musical profession accrued and deployed within Soviet society enabling musicians to withstand the postwar disciplinary campaigns that were so crippling in other artistic and literary spheres Most accounts of Soviet musical life focus on famous individuals or the campaign against Shostakovich s *Lady Macbeth* and Zhdanov s postwar attack on musical formalism Tomoff s approach while not downplaying these notorious events shows that the Union was able to develop and direct a musical profession that enjoyed enormous social prestige The Union s leadership was able to use its expertise to determine the

criteria of musical value with a degree of independence Tomoff's book reveals the complex and mutable interaction of creative intelligentsia and political elite in a period hitherto characterized as one of totalitarian control      **Sergey Prokofiev and His World** Simon Morrison, 2018-06-26 Sergey Prokofiev 1891-1953 arguably the most popular composer of the twentieth century led a life of triumph and tragedy The story of his prodigious childhood in tsarist Russia maturation in the West and rise and fall as a Stalinist era composer is filled with unresolved questions Sergey Prokofiev and His World probes beneath the surface of his career and contextualizes his contributions to music on both sides of the nascent Cold War divide The book contains previously unknown documents from the Russian State Archive of Literature and Art in Moscow and the Prokofiev Estate in Paris The literary notebook of the composer's mother Mariya Grigoryevna illuminates her involvement in his education and is translated in full as are ninety-eight letters between the composer and his business partner Levon Atovmian The collection also includes a translation of Sigizmund Krzhizhanovsky's unperformed stage adaptation of Eugene Onegin for which Prokofiev composed incidental music in 1936 The essays in the book range in focus from musical sketches to Kremlin decrees The contributors explore Prokofiev's time in America evaluate his working methods in the mid 1930s document the creation of his score for the film Lieutenant Kizhe tackle how and why Prokofiev rewrote his 1930 Fourth Symphony in 1947 detail his immortalization by Soviet bureaucrats composers and scholars and examine Prokofiev's interest in Christian Science and the paths it opened for his music The contributors are Mark Aranovsky Kevin Bartig Elizabeth Bergman Leon Botstein Pamela Davidson Caryl Emerson Marina Frolova Walker Nelly Kravetz Leonid Maximenkov Stephen Press and Peter Schmelz      [The Ashes of Babi Yar](#) Antonella Salomoni, 2025 On September 29 and 30 1941 in one of the largest mass murders of the Holocaust German troops massacred 33 771 Jews at the vast gorge located near Kyiv known as Babi Yar Babij Jar During and after the war the territory was modified redesigned and converted in order to remove the physical signs of genocide including the exhumation and incineration of thousands of bodies In large part this erasure was the result of policies implemented by the Soviet regime which refused to accept that there had been a special war against Jews Beginning with an explication of the mass murders and their aftermath Antonella Salomoni examines the afterlife of a massacre whose physical remains were intentionally hidden She focuses especially on how the arts prose poetry music architecture and painting shaped a collective narrative that despite repression played a crucial role in preserving the history and memory of the genocide      *The Magical Chorus* Solomon Volkov, 2009-03-10 From the reign of Tsar Nicholas II to the brutal cult of Stalin to the ebullient uncertain days of perestroika nowhere has the inextricable relationship between politics and culture been more starkly illustrated than in twentieth century Russia In the first book to fully examine the intricate and often deadly interconnection between Russian rulers and Russian artists cultural historian Solomon Volkov brings to life the experiences that inspired artists like Tolstoy Stravinsky Akhmatova Nijinsky Nabokov and Eisenstein to create some of the greatest masterpieces of our time Epic in scope and intimate in detail *The Magical Chorus* is the definitive account of a

remarkable era in Russia's complex cultural life

**On Russian Music** Richard Taruskin, 2009 This volume gathers 36 essays by one of the leading scholars in the study of Russian music An extensive introduction lays out the main issues and a justification of Taruskin's approach seen both in the light of his intellectual development and in that of the changing intellectual environment

**Busoni as Pianist** Grigoriĭ Kogan, 2010 A translation of the only book that focuses solely on the pianistic aspect of Busoni's wide ranging career Ferruccio Busoni is most widely known today as the composer of such works as the Second Violin Sonata the incidental music for Gozzi's *Turandot* and the most monumental piano concerto in the repertory some eighty minutes long with male chorus in the finale But Busoni was also renowned in his day as an author and pedagogue and most especially as a pianist Busoni's recordings of pieces by Chopin and Liszt and of his own arrangements of keyboard works by Bach and Beethoven are much prized and studied today by connoisseurs of piano playing Yet even his most important biographers have cast only a cursory glance at the pianistic aspect of Busoni's fascinating career Grigory Kogan's book *Busoni as Pianist* published in Russian in 1964 and here translated for the first time was and remains the first and only study to concentrate exclusively on Busoni's contributions to the world of the piano *Busoni as Pianist* summarizes reviews of Busoni's playing and his own writings on the subject It also closely analyzes the surviving piano roles and recordings and examines Busoni's editions arrangements and pedagogical output As such it will be of interest to pianists teachers and students of the piano historians and all who love piano music and the art of piano playing Grigory Kogan 1901-1979 was a leading Soviet pianist and music critic A conservatory professor at the age of twenty one Kogan created the first ever course in Russia dealing with the history and theory of pianism Through his brilliant lectures his concert performances and his many books articles and reviews Kogan influenced an entire generation of Soviet pianists Svetlana Belsky is a teacher and performer and is coordinator of Piano Studies at the University of Chicago

**Architecture of Oblivion** Andreas Schönle, 2011-06-01 Despite attempts to promote the aesthetics of ruins in Russia from Catherine the Great's construction of fake ruins in imperial parks to Josef Brodsky's elegiac meditations ruins have never achieved the status they enjoy in Western Europe While the Soviet Union was notorious for leveling churches post Soviet Russia has only intensified the practice of massive destruction and reconstruction *Architecture of Oblivion* examines the role of ruins in the development of Russia's historical consciousness from the eighteenth century to the present Investigating the meaning and functions ruins have acquired in Russian culture Schönle looks at ideological reasons for the current disregard for the value of ruins and historical buildings in particular by political authorities and reveals how ruins have often become a site of resistance to official ideology and an invitation to map out alternative visions of history and of statehood An interdisciplinary study of Russia's response to ruins has never been attempted although the topic of ruins has garnered considerable interest in Western Europe and in the U S This original work from a leading authority on the subject will appeal to historians of Russian culture and thought literature and art scholars and general readers interested in ruins

*A Dictionary of 20th-Century Communism* Silvio

Pons, Robert Service, 2022-04-12 An encyclopedic guide to 20th century communism around the world The first book of its kind to appear since the end of the Cold War this indispensable reference provides encyclopedic coverage of communism and its impact throughout the world in the 20th century With the opening of archives in former communist states scholars have found new material that has expanded and sometimes altered the understanding of communism as an ideological and political force A Dictionary of 20th Century Communism brings this scholarship to students teachers and scholars in related fields In more than 400 concise entries the book explains what communism was the forms it took and the enormous role it played in world history from the Russian Revolution through the collapse of the Soviet Union and beyond Examines the political intellectual and social influences of communism around the globe Features contributions from an international team of 160 scholars Includes more than 400 entries on major topics such as Figures Lenin Mao Stalin Ho Chi Minh Pol Pot Castro Gorbachev Events Cold War Prague Spring Cultural Revolution Sandinista Revolution Ideas and concepts Marxism Leninism cult of personality labor Organizations and movements KGB Comintern Gulag Khmer Rouge Related topics totalitarianism nationalism antifascism anticommunism McCarthyism Guides readers to further research through bibliographies cross references and an index

**Stalin Era Intellectuals** Vesa Oittinen, Elina Viljanen, 2022-11-25 This book focuses on the extent to which Soviet scholars and cultural theoreticians were able to act autonomously during the Stalin era The authors question how we should consider certain intellectual achievements which took place despite the pressure of Stalinism and how best to recognise and describe such achievements The chapters in this book offer suggestions for new interpretations on Soviet philosophy of science and humanities linguistics philosophy musicology literature and mathematics from the point of view of general cultural theory In this way they challenge the received image of the Stalin era humanities which reduces them into mere propaganda Intended for scholars of Russian and Soviet studies this book will dispel many received views about the character of Stalinism and Soviet culture Chapters 1 2 4 6 10 and 13 of this book are freely available as downloadable Open Access PDFs at <http://www.taylorfrancis.com> under a Creative Commons Attribution Non Commercial No Derivatives CC BY NC ND 4.0 license

**Stalin's Final Films** Claire Knight, 2024-07-15 Stalin's Final Films explores a neglected period in the history of Soviet cinema breathing new life into a body of films long considered moribund as the pinnacle of Stalinism While film censorship reached its apogee in this period and fewer films were made film attendance also peaked as Soviet audiences voted with their seats and distinguished a clearly popular postwar cinema Claire Knight examines the tensions between official ideology and audience engagement and between education and entertainment inherent in these popular films as well as the financial considerations that shaped and constrained them She explores how the Soviet regime used films to address the major challenges faced by the USSR after the Great Patriotic War World War II showing how war dramas spy thrillers Stalin epics and rural comedies alike were mobilized to consolidate an official narrative of the war reestablish Stalinist orthodoxy and dramatize the rebuilding of socialist society Yet Knight also highlights how these same

films were used by filmmakers more experimentally exploring a diverse range of responses to the ideological crisis that lay at the heart of Soviet postwar culture as a victorious people were denied the fruits of their sacrificial labor After the war new heroes were demanded by both the regime and Soviet audiences and filmmakers sought to provide them with at times surprising results Stalin's Final Films mines Soviet cinema as an invaluable resource for understanding the unique character of postwar Stalinism and the cinema of the most repressive era in Soviet history

**Red Apple** Phillip Deery, 2014-01-01 The history of what six men endured during the post World War II Red Scare in New York City From the late 1940s through the 1950s McCarthyism disfigured the American political landscape Under the altar of anticommunism domestic Cold War crusaders undermined civil liberties curtailed equality before the law and tarnished the ideals of American democracy In order to preserve freedom they jettisoned some of its tenets Congressional committees worked in tandem although not necessarily in collusion with the FBI law firms university administrations publishing houses television networks movie studios and a legion of government agencies at the federal state and local levels to target subversive individuals Exploring the human consequences of the widespread paranoia that gripped a nation Red Apple presents the international and domestic context for the experiences of these individuals the House Un American Activities Committee hearings of the Joint Anti Fascist Refugee Committee resulting in the incarceration of its chairman Dr Edward Barsky and its executive board the academic freedom cases of two New York University professors Lyman Bradley and Edwin Burgum culminating in their dismissal from the university the blacklisting of the communist writer Howard Fast and his defection from American communism the visit of an anguished Dimitri Shostakovich to New York in the spring of 1949 and the attempts by O John Rogge the Committee's lawyer to find a third way in the quest for peace which led detractors to question which side he was on Examining real life experiences at the ground level Deery explores how these six individuals experienced responded to and suffered from one of the most savage assaults on civil liberties in American history Their collective stories illuminate the personal costs of holding dissident political beliefs in the face of intolerance and moral panic that is as relevant today as it was seventy years ago Praise for Red Apple Thoroughly researched well documented and detailed A compelling read and a valuable contribution to the Cold War historiography H Net Reviews Reminds us of the devastating impact that domestic anticommunism has on its victims at the height of the Cold War Red Apple makes an important contribution to the literature on domestic anticommunism by turning our attention to New York City Clarence Taylor Baruch College American Historical Review A welcome reminder that the reactionary inspired fear based politics of six decades ago can be a salutary subject to consider in 2015 Henry Innes MacAdam Left History

**Russia in the Twentieth Century** David R. Marples, 2014-01-14 The history of Russia as the natural successor to the Soviet Union is of crucial importance to understanding why communism ultimately lost out to Western democracy and the free market system David Marples presents a balanced overview of 20th century Russian history and shows that although contemporary Russia has retained many of the practices and memories of

the Soviet period it is not about to revert back to the Soviet example

**Sourcebook for Research in Music, Third Edition** Allen Scott, 2015-06-01 Since it was first published in 1993 the Sourcebook for Research in Music has become an invaluable resource in musical scholarship The balance between depth of content and brevity of format makes it ideal for use as a textbook for students a reference work for faculty and professional musicians and as an aid for librarians The introductory chapter includes a comprehensive list of bibliographical terms with definitions bibliographic terms in German French and Italian and the plan of the Library of Congress and the Dewey Decimal music classification systems Integrating helpful commentary to instruct the reader on the scope and usefulness of specific items this updated and expanded edition accounts for the rapid growth in new editions of standard works in fields such as ethnomusicology performance practice women in music popular music education business and music technology These enhancements to its already extensive bibliographies ensures that the Sourcebook will continue to be an indispensable reference for years to come *Vasily Grossman and the Soviet Century* Alexandra Popoff, 2019-03-26 The definitive biography of Soviet Jewish dissident writer Vasily Grossman If Vasily Grossman's 1961 masterpiece *Life and Fate* had been published during his lifetime it would have reached the world together with Pasternak's *Doctor Zhivago* and before Solzhenitsyn's *Gulag* But *Life and Fate* was seized by the KGB When it emerged posthumously decades later it was recognized as the *War and Peace* of the twentieth century Always at the epicenter of events Grossman 1905-1964 was among the first to describe the Holocaust and the Ukrainian famine His 1944 article *The Hell of Treblinka* became evidence at Nuremberg Grossman's powerful anti-totalitarian works liken the Nazis crimes against humanity with those of Stalin His compassionate prose has the everlasting quality of great art Because Grossman's major works appeared after much delay we are only now able to examine them properly Alexandra Popoff's authoritative biography illuminates Grossman's life and legacy

**Louder Than Bombs** Ed Vulliamy, 2020-04-08 Part memoir part reportage *Louder Than Bombs* is a story of music from the front lines Ed Vulliamy a decorated war correspondent and journalist offers a testimony of his lifelong passion for music Vulliamy's reporting has taken him around the world to cover the Bosnian war the fall of the Berlin Wall and collapse of Communism the Iraq wars of 1991 and 2003 onward narco violence in Mexico and more places where he confronted stories of violence suffering and injustice Through it all Vulliamy has turned to music not only as a reprieve but also as a means to understand and express the complicated emotions that follow Describing the artists songs and concerts that most influenced him Vulliamy brings together the two largest threads of his life music and war *Louder Than Bombs* covers some of the most important musical milestones of the past fifty years from Jimi Hendrix playing *Machine Gun* at the Isle of Wight Festival in 1970 to the Bataclan in Paris under siege in 2015 Vulliamy was present for many of these historic moments and with him as our guide we see them afresh along the way meeting musicians like B B King Graham Nash Patti Smith Daniel Barenboim Gustavo Dudamel and Bob Dylan Vulliamy peppers the book with short vignettes which he dubs 7 singles recounting some of his happiest memories from a



lifetime with music Whether he's working as an extra in the Vienna State Opera's production of Aida buying blues records in Chicago or drinking coffee with Joan Baez music is never far from his mind As Vulliamy discovers when horror is unspeakable when words seem to fail us we can turn to music for expression and comfort or for rage and pain Poignant and sensitively told Louder Than Bombs is an unforgettable record of a life bursting with music *Goodbye Russia* Fiona Maddocks, 2023-05-30

In 1940 Sergei Rachmaninoff living in exile in America broke his creative silence and composed a swan song to his Russian homeland What happened in those final haunted years and how did he come to write his farewell masterpiece the Symphonic Dances Rachmaninoff left Petrograd in 1917 in the throes of the Russian Revolution He was 44 years old at the peak of his powers as composer conductor performer moving in elite Tsarist circles as well as running the family estate his refuge and solace He had already written the music which today has made him one of the most popular composers of all time the second and third Piano Concertos and two symphonies The story of his years in exile in America and Switzerland has only been told in passing Reeling from the trauma of a life in upheaval he wrote almost no music and quickly had to reinvent himself as a famed virtuoso pianist building up untold wealth and meeting the stars from Walt Disney and Charlie Chaplin to his Russian contemporaries and polar opposites Prokofiev and Stravinsky Yet the melancholy of leaving his homeland never lifted Using a wide range of sources including important newly translated texts Maddocks immensely readable book conjures impressions of this enigmatic figure his friends and the world he encountered It explores his life as an emigré artist and how he clung to an Old Russia which no longer existed That forging of past and present meets in his Symphonic Dances 1940 his last composition written on Long Island shortly before his death in Beverly Hills surrounded by a close knit circle of Russian exiles

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