

## RUSSIAN VIOLIN SONATAS

**PROKOFIEV** Violin Sonata no.1 in F minor  
op.80 **SHOSTAKOVICH** Violin Sonata in  
G major op.134

Michael Dinnebier (violin)

Angela-Charlott Bieber (piano)

GENUIN GEN 89154



A product of the war years  
when Stalin's henchmen  
were generally more  
tolerant of less  
than optimistic musical

statements, Prokofiev's First Violin  
Sonata just got under the wire before

the post-war crackdown. Both Isaac Stern (Sony) and Itzhak Perlman (RCA) tend to emphasise the music's physical impact and sense of desolate intensity, whereas Michael Dinnebier – leader of the Dimenati Quartet between 2001 and 2007 – is closer to Erik Schumann (Avi-Musik) in taking a gentler view, giving the music more room to breathe without throttling it into submission. As a result, a work that can often emerge as emotionally cool and unyielding sounds utterly captivating, especially during the finale, which for once is allowed to flow naturally by, rather than continually made to stamp its musical feet.

Dinnebier's ability to get to the emotional heart of the matter pays special dividends in the Shostakovich Sonata. Rather than approaching this deeply unsettling work from the standpoint of a concerto soloist, Dinnebier gently probes its obfuscating musical euphemisms with a chamber-scale sensitivity and captivating purity of line. Angela-Charlott Bieber complements Dinnebier's enviably supple musical responses to perfection, and the engineering thankfully avoids the temptation to highlight Dinnebier's small-scale sound world of introspective enchantment.

JULIAN HAYLOCK

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