

ML 4473

the **DION COSSACKS** on Parade

SERGE JAROFF, Conductor

meyer monogram



Russian folksongs with songs of
Gretchaninov and scenes from Glinka's Life of the Czar

COLUMBIA Masterworks



THE DON COSSACKS ON PARADE

SERGE JAROFF, Conductor

Green Grass; Kalinka (Folksongs arr. by S. Jaroff from the Album of Agreneff Slaviansky) • In the Don Valley (H. Tshegloff—Kulikovitch) • Dark Eyes; Two Guitars (Camp Fire Songs arr. by Tshegloff—Kulikovitch) • Along the St. Petersburg Road (Cossack Military Song arr. by S. Jaroff) • Old Waltz (Two traditional melodies arr. by C. Shvedoff)
Selection from Gretchaninov Songs • Scenes from “Life of the Czar” (Glinka—arr: by C. Shvedoff)

One of the world's great choruses, the ever exciting and full-voiced Don Cossacks, brings us here nine selections from its rich repertoire. Included are folk songs, romantic love songs such as are sung around a camp fire, stirring military songs and scenes from a famous Russian opera.

The story of this chorus is a fascinating one. It was formed in the days of the First World War. Its members were officers in the Imperial Russian Army who had fought with General Wrangel's White Army in the Crimea. After their defeat they were held prisoners in a camp near Constantinople. There they sought to forget their discomforts and unhappiness and homesickness by singing songs of their native land around a camp fire in the evening.

Organizing and directing this group was the dynamic Serge Jaroff who before the War had been a professional musician, a choir director. Under his expert guidance, the group achieved a remarkable eloquence and power.

After a few months, the group was
(Side 1, Band 1)

transferred to Sofia upon the permission of the Bulgarian government. By day they worked in mines and in factories; at night they continued their singing. People began to talk about the grandeur of this chorus, and in a short time it was appointed the choir of the Russian Embassy Church. A concert manager, hearing the group sing there, arranged for it a concert of both religious and secular music, thus launching a career that has carried the Don Cossacks to far corners of the world.

Their singing and their songs are unique. Their repertoire ranges from songs of bright humor to outbursts of barbaric splendor. They achieve both exquisite *pianissimos* and ringingly lusty *fortissimos*. Many glowing phrases have been used in describing their artistry. Critics have written of their “thrilling, roaring, resurgent singing,” their “richly exciting tone quality.”

Serge Jaroff has written that “the tradition of Russian music is rooted in the soul of people for whom each experience in life is an occasion for song.” The con-

ductor points out that the Russian peasant at his first village fete “lifted his voice when the girls joined hands and danced the length of the village.” The peasant, continues Mr. Jaroff, “sang the songs of his earth, mountains, rivers and forests, and at night he sang generations-old ballads.” It is these songs, the conductor justly says, that have inspired the greatest operas of Russia, such as *Life of the Czar* and *Boris* and *Le Coq d'Or*.

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The Don Cossacks, under the direction of Serge Jaroff, have made many other brilliant recordings for Columbia Masterworks. Among them are:

RELIGIOUS MUSIC (Works by Rachmaninoff, Tchaikovsky and others)
ML 2163

DON COSSACK CONCERT (The Lord's Prayer • The Sailors • Song of the Indian Guest and others)
ML 2070

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THE DON COSSACKS ON PARADE

SERGE JAROFF, Conductor

1. GREEN GRASS; KALINKA
(Folksongs Arr. by S. Jaroff from the Album of
Agreñeff Slaviansky) Soloists: M. Dedovitch; I. Corvin

ML 4473
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SIDE 1
(x"LP" 4479)

2. IN THE DON VALLEY (H. Tshegloff - Kulikovitch)
3. DARK EYES; TWO GUITARS (Camp Fire Songs
Arr. by Tshegloff - Kulikovitch)
Soloist: A. Levchenko
4. ALONG THE ST. PETERSBURG ROAD
(Cossack Military Song Arr. by S. Jaroff)
Soloist: M. Konstantinoff

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SIDE 2
(x"LP" 4480)

1. OLD WALTZ (Two traditional melodies Arr. by C. Shverdoff)
Soloists: M. Bajanoff, N. Naneff
2. SELECTION FROM GRETCHANINOV SONGS
Soloist: M. Bajanoff
3. SCENES FROM "LIFE OF THE CZAR"
(Glinka - Arr. by C. Shverdoff)
Soloists: N. Naneff, M. Konstantinoff,
B. Morosoff

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