

STEREO
LP-1000

EDWARD MACDOWELL

Piano Concerto No. 2 in D minor, Op. 23

S. RACHMANINOFF

Piano Concerto No. 2 in C minor, Op. 18

J. L. MILL
RECORDS

NORA LOUKIDOU, PIANO

The State Symphony Orchestra of Thessaloniki

SOLON MICHAELIDES

Conductor



Side 1

Edward MacDowell
Concerto No. 2 in D minor, Opus 23
for piano and orchestra

- I. Larghetto calmato
- II. Presto giocoso
- III. Largo - Molto allegro

Side 2

Sergi Rachmaninoff
Concerto No. 2 in C minor, Opus 18

- I. Moderato
- II. Adagio sostenuto
- III. Allegro scherzando

NORA LOUKIDOU

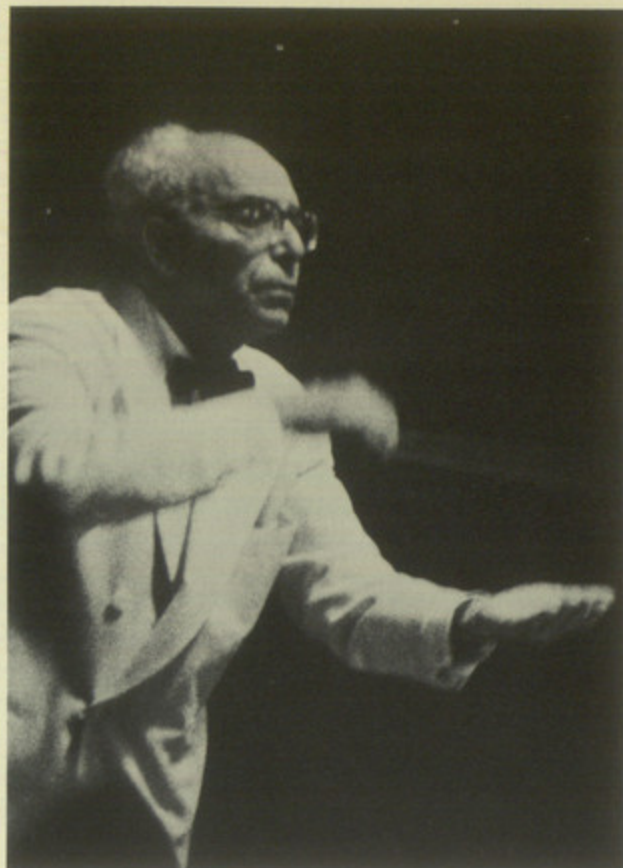
This record marks the distinguished debut of an outstanding Greek pianist who through her rapid ascent has conquered the music loving public of Greece. Nora Loukidou attended the State Conservatory of Thessaloniki, her home town, where she graduated with highest honors.

In 1952 she won the first prize at the First Panhellenic Music Competition under the sponsorship of the World's Fair of Thessaloniki and the "Tehni" Art Organization. She went to England on a scholarship and continued her studies under the well known professor of the Royal Academy of London, Mr. Harold Craxton.

Since 1954 she has been a member of the faculty of the State Conservatory of Thessaloniki. She has repeatedly performed as a soloist with the State Orchestra of Athens and Thessaloniki, and has appeared in several recitals in Thessaloniki and other cities in Greece, as well as on radio stations of Thessaloniki, Athens and Belgrade; always with great success.

These two concertos of MacDowell and Rachmaninoff interpreted by Miss Loukidou and the State Orchestra of Thessaloniki under the direction of Solon Michaelides have been repeatedly broadcasted by Greek and American radio stations.

The young Greek pianist's performances have been received with great enthusiasm, and her playing has been described as "sensitive", "imaginative", "articulate", and "faithful" to the historic as well as aesthetic aspects of "music".



Michaelides born in Cyprus studied at the Trinity College of Music in London and at the Schola Cantorum and the Ecole Normale de Musique in Paris with Nadia Boulanger (Harmony, Counterpoint, Fugue), Guy de Lioncourt (Composition), Marcel Labey (Orchestral conducting), Alfred Cortot and P. Maire (piano).

As conductor he appears regularly in Salonica and Athens; he appeared also as guest - conductor in France, Germany, Italy, Roumania, etc.

Artists who played as soloists under his baton include: The pianists: Vl. Ashkenazy, J. Achucarro, G. Bachauer, P. Badura-Skoda, Sh. Cherkassky, M. Cheroghiorgou, V. Devetzi, Fr. Gevers, V. Gheorghiu, Fr. Glazer, M. Haas, N. Magaloff, W. Malczynski, M. Papaioannou, R. Petrossian, B. Ringeissen, H. Schröder, G. Themeli, A. Uninsky.

The violinists: I. Bezrodny, H. Bress, A. Campoli, D. Erlih, St. Gheorghiu, M. Parikian, Max Rostal, St. Ruha, H. Szeryng, I. Voicu.

The cellists: G. Cassado, R. Aldulescu, L. Hölischer, A. Navarra, M. Rostropovich, P. Tortelier, etc.

He is a Commander of the Royal Order of Phoenix of Greece, an Hon. Fellow of Trinity College of Music of London and Hon. Member of the American Ethnomusical Society.

He is a contributor to the Grove's Dictionary of Music and Musicians (Ed. 1954), and a member of the Executive Board of the International Folk Music Council (1948-68) and of the Jury at various International Competitions (Llangollen, Arezzo, etc.).

Many of his symphonic works have been performed in London, Paris, Oslo, Munich, Strasbourg, Torino, Bucarest, Athens, Salonica, etc.

Of all Rachmaninoff's four concertos, his second is considered the best one. Written in 1901, when the composer was living in Moscow, it soon became one of the most popular works of the repertory for piano.

From the technical point of view, it is one of the most representative works of the composer. It maintains the basic characteristics of his style: a warm melodic line with modal influences and accompanying arpeggios, ease and naturalness in the development of melody, and a strong sense of architecture. The dome of the work, despite all the freedom of the expression, is the result of masterful utilization of musical material. Especially the part for piano indicates admirable craftsmanship.

MacDowell's second concerto was written in 1885 when the composer was in Germany, and is dedicated to his teacher, the famous pianist Karenio. It was first performed in New York in 1889 with the composer himself as soloist. This work is considered one of the best of the roman school. Indeed it is of particular interest because of its melodic richness, the sincere romantic atmosphere which it creates, and the admirable economy of expressive means which the composer utilizes.

After the poised melancholy and the dramatic exaltations of the first part, the scherzo of the second movement comes as an airy image of dancing forest nymphes. Actually the main themes of this movement are taken from MacDowell's piano suite, "Forest Images". The last movement is introduced by the return of the main song of the first part, and develops in a brilliant finale where an interplay of rythm and expression tertilize the interest of the listener.