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Approaches to the Performance of Musical and Extra-musical
References in Shostakovich's Viola Sonata

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Exegesis

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Abstract

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This paper is an examination of Shostakovich's Viola Sonata, op. 147, for developing a stylistically informed performance practice. It is divided into three parts: The first is an investigation of symbolism present within the work itself; the second a comparative analysis of recordings; and the third a discussion of how the author uses these approaches to make performance decisions. The first aspect looks to the score itself to identify quotations of and allusions to other works, and considers the reasoning for this. The second analyses string choice and *tempo* of recordings to consider how these might reflect symbolic considerations. The third part discusses specific performance decisions, and the reasons on which they are based.

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List of Recording Examples (on audio CD attached)

Track No.	Player	Bars	Start time	End time
1	Mintz	1-9	0	0:28.5
2	Zimmermann	1-9	0	0:24
3	Mintz	38-43	1:56	2:14
4	Druzhinin	38-43	1:26	1:39
5	Mintz	247-255	10:28	10:56
6	Bartholdy	247-255	10:13	10:47
7	Silverthorne	247-255	8:56	9:20
8	Power	247-255	8:44	9:09
9	Silverthorne	222-237	8:03	8:33
10	Power	222-237	7:38	8:13
11	Mintz	222-237	9:16	9:56
12	Imai	222-237	7:46	8:24
13	Bartholdy	53-56	2:50	3:01
14	Power	53-56	2:13	2:23
15	Imai	53-56	2:31	2:42
16	Bashmet (Muntian)	120-30	5:29	5:48
17	Bashmet (Richter)	218-21	9:22	9:30
18	Bartholdy	218-21	8:42	8:50
19	Silverthorne	218-21	7:55	8:03
20	Bashmet (Muntian)	161-63	6:50	7:00
21	Silverthorne	222-232	8:03	8:21
22	Power	222-232	7:38	8:00
23	Mintz	222-232	9:16	9:45
24	Zimmermann	222-232	7:37	7:59
25	Druzhinin	222-37	6:57.5	7:27
26	Bashmet (Richter)	1-9	0:00	0:35
27	Druzhinin	1-9	0:00	0:22
28	Zimmermann	1-9	0:00	0:24
29	Bashmet (Muntian)	1-9	0:00	0:30
30	Power	1-9	0:00	0:23.5

31	Druzhinin	69-88	2:38	3:12
32	Bashmet (Muntian)	69-88	3:55	4:36
33	Power	69-88	2:54	3:32
34	Mintz	131-52	5:38	6:15
35	Bashmet (Richter)	131-52	6:07	6:37
36	Silverthorne	131-52	5:01	5:32
37	Zimmermann	131-52	4:47	5:18
38	Imai	160-165	5:48	6:00
39	Bartholdy	160-165	6:29	6:44
40	Bashmet (Richter)	210-15	9:06	9:18
41	Druzhinin	210-15	6:38	6:48
42	Imai	222-32	7:45	8:12
43	Bartholdy	252-end	10:32	11:10
44	Zimmermann	252-end	8:50	9:15
45	Bashmet (Richter)	252-end	11:09	11:46