

The University of Adelaide
Elder Conservatorium of Music
Faculty of Arts

**The first four piano sonatas by Nikolai
Myaskovsky: performing in context**
Portfolio of recorded performances and exegesis

by

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submitted in fulfilment of the requirements
for the degree of

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CONTENTS

Abstract	3
Declaration	4
Acknowledgements	5
Introduction	6
PART A Recorded Performances	14
A.1 Recital A and contents of CD 1	15
A.2 Recital B and contents of CD 2	16
PART B Exegesis	17
B.1 Nikolai Myaskovsky: profile of the composer	18
B.2 The First Four Piano Sonatas	26
B.3 Challenges of performance interpretation	42
Conclusion	51
List of Sources	54
Musical Scores, Discography, Bibliography	
Appendices	58
Appendix A Score of Piano Sonata no.1	59
Appendix B Score of Piano Sonata no.2	108
Appendix C Score of Piano Sonata no.3	139
Appendix D Score of Piano Sonata no.4	161

NOTE:

2 CDs containing 'Recorded Performances' are included with the print copy of the thesis held in the University of Adelaide Library. The CDs must be listened to in the Music Library.

ABSTRACT

Nikolai Myaskovsky (1881-1950) was one of the most significant figures in the musical life of Russia in the early twentieth century, and one of the leading creative personalities in the early years of the Soviet Union. Although he was a highly influential musician during his lifetime, his music has become overshadowed by other composers of the era, such as Prokofiev and Shostakovich. His music is now rarely performed, either inside or outside Russia. His large creative output includes nine piano sonatas for which few recordings exist. This performance-based MPhil project at the Elder Conservatorium of Music, University of Adelaide, brings to public attention the first four piano sonatas and contextualises them alongside other Russian piano works of Myaskovsky's time. The submission consists of a portfolio of recorded performances on two CDs, supported by an explanatory exegesis.

DECLARATION

I certify that this work contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in my name, in any university or other tertiary institution and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, contains no material previously published or written by another person, except where due reference has been made in the text. In addition, I certify that no part of this work will, in the future, be used in a submission in my name, for any other degree or diploma in any university or other tertiary institution without the prior approval of the University of Adelaide and where applicable, any partner institution responsible for the joint-award of this degree.

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Konstantin Shamray

Dated: 18 November 2015

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