



PETER DONOHOE – Review Sheet

Prokofiev Piano Sonatas, Vol. I, Nos. 1-5

**Prokofiev: Piano Sonatas Vol 1:
Nos 1-5 Opp 1, 14, 28, 29, 38**
Peter Donohoe

★★★★★ SOMM CD 249 [63']

There have been several integral recordings of the Prokofiev piano sonatas in recent years, and whilst many of them are very well played and recorded, this new series from Peter Donohoe may well turn out to be the finest of all. Donohoe is a superb pianist, who has this style of music almost in his blood: his virtuosity is admirable, as is, it hardly needs saying, his virtuosity. The First Sonata, an extraordinarily original work for an 18-year-old, receives the best performance I can recall, as does the Second, and Donohoe reveals the compelling work of the young genius admirably throughout this disc. An interesting point is that he plays the original version of No 5 (at the end of his life, Prokofiev made a revised second version, cataloguing it as his opus 135, which was his last completed work). The recording quality is consistently really fine, and Donohoe also provides very good booklet notes, but the absence of composition dates is a drawback. [RM-W]

Robert Matthew-Walker, Editor of Musical Opinion, November 2013

MUSICAL
Opinion

‘masterly musician’

Sound Quality: 88%



Hi-Fi Choice

Donohoe is “at his best”

Andrew Clements, The Guardian, June 2013

theguardian

RECORDING OF THE MONTH

Top-notch Prokofiev, commandingly played; this is as good as it gets.’

Dan Morgan, MusicWeb International, September 2013



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“Donohoe absolutely nails the Fifth Sonata's *Andantino* to a proverbial tee, giving the impression that the detached chords and long single-line *legato* melody are coming from different instruments. Evidently Donohoe harbours great affection for this underrated, attractively French-tinged masterpiece.”

Jed Distler, Gramophone, June 2013

GRAMOPHONE

Donohoe “ensures that the slicing, acidulous felicity of Prokofiev’s writing is pure invigoration.”

The Sunday Times, May 2013

THE SUNDAY TIMES

“Ladies and gentlemen: hats off, a genius...the master interpreter of this little-known repertoire...This is Prokofiev as you have not heard him. A major re-evaluation from a towering pianist is under way.”

Michael Tumelty, The Herald, Scotland, May 2013

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The Herald | **sundayherald**

“Donohoe is very special. He's a lion of the keyboard, but he's also a poet. From Donohoe you will experience thunder and steel; but you will also experience exquisite lyricism and sensitivity. There's something about his playing that suggests him as the man for this mission...Expect insights galore.”

Michael Tumelty, The Herald, Scotland, April 2013

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Donohoe has “a remarkably sensitive approach to even the most virtuosic of repertoire...Donohoe brings this first volume to a subtle and enigmatic close with the final movement of Fifth Sonata’s surprisingly quiet conclusion – almost as if in anticipation of the next volume to follow soon.”

Nick Boston, Classical Notes, August 2013

Classical Notes

‘Donohoe's authoritative playing shines through in every work... [he] delivers with bravura, panache and precision. In his hands every sonata makes a memorable impression, and the Fifth, with its cool classicity, receives one of the finest performances I have ever encountered on disc.’

Michael J Stewart, Classical Ears, August 2013

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