

## Compact disc round-up

## reviews

**Medtner** Piano Concerto No. 2 in C minor, Op. 50<sup>a</sup>; Arabesque in A minor, Op. 7 No. 2; Fairy Tales – D, Op. 51 No. 1; F, Op. 26 No. 3; Spanish Romance, Op. 52 No. 5<sup>b</sup>; Butterfly, Op. 28 No. 3<sup>c</sup>; To a dreamer, Op. 32 No. 6<sup>d</sup>.

**Nikolay Medtner** (pf); <sup>a</sup>**Philharmonia Orchestra** / **Issay Dobrowen**; <sup>bc</sup>**Tatiana Makushina** (sop); <sup>d</sup>**Oda Slobodskaya** (sop).  
St Laurent Studio mono (M) (D) YSL78-005  
(56mins; ADD); rec. London, March & May 1947.

Nicolay Medtner made all his recordings well into the electric era, and he was a virtuoso performer. He was fortunate to be favoured by the Maharaja of Mysore, who sponsored most of his recorded legacy, including that heard here. Yves St Laurent's claim that his transfer of the Second Piano Concerto is superior to previous efforts is certainly justified. The solos are interesting, but even more valuable are souvenirs of the art of the seldom recorded Oda Slobodskaya and the still more rarely heard Tatiana Makushina, both of whom sing with a very Russian intensity and flair.