

ANALEKTA



TCHAIKOVSKY

SOUVENIR DE FLORENCE

QUARTET NO. 1

AN 2 9954

I MUSICI DE MONTRÉAL
YULI TUROVSKY, CONDUCTOR

Release date: September 22, 2009

Montreal, September 22 2009 — I Musici de Montréal and his conductor Yuli Turovsky once again approach Tchaikovsky's universe in this new Analekta recording.

Tchaikovsky first set foot in Florence in 1878, and fell immediately under its spell. He never forgot his "dream city", and in the early 1890s, after the triumphant premiere of *Sleeping Beauty*, this is where he chose to begin his String Sextet. Somewhere between a quartet and a symphony for strings (fully justifying the decision here to record the piece in a larger version, heard in an orchestral transcription by Yuli Turovsky), *Souvenir de Florence* basks in a contagious joie de vivre.

While *Souvenir de Florence* proved to be Tchaikovsky's final chamber music work, his **String Quartet in D, Op. 11** is an example of his excellent early efforts in this line. With this work, Tchaikovsky came very close to pure music and achieved a remarkable structural balance, brilliantly exposed on this recording in a transcription from Yuli Turovsky.

Reputed as "one of the best chamber orchestras of the Americas", I Musici de Montréal maintains an impressive calendar: more than one hundred concerts per year in Canada and abroad. Under the inspired leadership of conductor **Yuli Turovsky**, the orchestra has played on four continents and in twenty-four countries, appearing at New York's Lincoln Center, Tokyo's Kioi Hall and Brussels' Palais des Beaux-arts to name a few. The Montreal-based orchestra has earned over the years prestigious recognitions, such as: a Diapason d'Or, a Rosette, a Félix, five Prix Opus, including one for their recording *Shostakovich's Circle* on the Analekta label.

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