

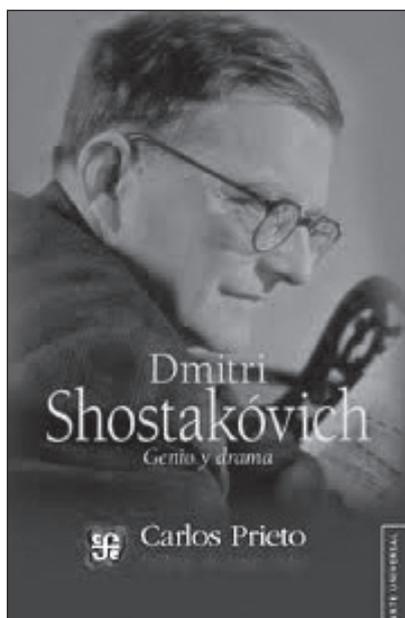


SHOSTAKOVICH NEWS

OBITUARY

Elmira Mirza Riza Nazirova

Elmira Mirza Riza Nazirova, born 30 November 1928, died on 23 January 2014. An Azerbaijani composer and pianist, she studied with Shostakovich in Moscow before returning to Baku. She is best known for her correspondence with Shostakovich at the time he was writing the Tenth Symphony and indeed provided thematic inspiration for the enigmatic horn theme in the third movement. More on Elmira Nazirova in the next edition of the *DSCH Journal*.



NEW BOOKS

Dmitri Shostakovich: Genio y drama by Carlos Prieto

A new biography of Shostakovich was published recently in Mexico. As the only Spanish-language book currently in print, this is a landmark project. Its author is Carlos Prieto (born in Mexico City, 1937), a noted cellist who met Shostakovich in 1959 during the composer's only visit to Mexico, and again in 1962 and 1968 in Moscow. Included is a fascinating account of Prieto's relationship with Shostakovich, Stravinsky, Schnittke, and Rostropovich. The author also reflects on the time he spent in the USSR, where he was a frequent visitor.

Dmitri Shostakóvich: Genio y drama
Carlos Prieto
Fondo de Cultura Económica (FCE)
332 pages
\$18 (USA)
ISBN 978-6071614834
2013



Dimitri Chostakovitch: Les rébellions d'un compositeur soviétique by Frans C. Lemaire

French-language biographies of Shostakovich are relatively rare birds: Krzysztof Meyer's translated tome stands out among what tend to be modest oeuvres, both in scale and ambition. In his first monograph on 20th-century composers, Frans Lemaire—author of reference books on Russian music—goes beyond the predictable chronological approach to Shostakovich's life and music, combining family history with the political upheavals that were the very fabric of Soviet society. Inevitably, some works are skipped, and others are given scant attention, but the handling is fair, equal, and relevant. Lemaire is dismissive of debates surrounding Shostakovich—a faithful son of the revolution, or a rebellious artist as described by Solomon Volkov in *Testimony*—preferring to weave the composer's story in and around the personal, the political, and the purely musical—with immense success.

Dimitri Chostakovitch: Les rébellions d'un compositeur soviétique
Frans C. Lemaire
Académie Royale de Belgique / éditions L'Académie en poche
134 pages
5€ (France)
ISBN 978-2-8031-0368-3
2013

