



The solo recital in two parts given by ODEKHIREN AMAIZE (USA) in the Rachmaninov Hall of the Moscow Conservatory named after P.I. Tchaikovsky (March 1, 1998, concertmaster Alexei Lukovnikov) was most noteworthy, demonstrating the extraordinary individuality of the singer. The possessor of a sonorous, rich bass-baritone, as well as of a vocal technique of the highest order, he included in his program some of the most demanding works of Russian classical music, alternating them with American songs of the twentieth century.

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Among the Russian works chosen were some of the most serious songs of Mussorgsky and Rachmaninov. The Mussorgsky cycle, "Songs and Dances of Death," pose a major interpretive challenge for even a Russian singer, because of its psychological complexity. Odekhiren Amaize's performance of this work struck all not only with the profound psychological insights it conveyed, but also with its authentic feel for Russian musical traditions (the performance was in Russian). Mr. Amaize's complete control of his voice, as well as his unusually expressive stage presence, enabled him to impart to the audience a rich inner world, while rendering an unforgettable interpretation of a classic Russian work. The same can be said of his performance of the lyrics of Rachmaninov. The sphere of Russian psychological delvings was most effectively set off by the American song cycles, which Mr. Amaize performed in his native language, giving expressive emphasis to all the shadings of the English word.

The solo recital by Odekhiren Amaize, with its profundity, uniqueness, and high professionalism, was one of the high points among the vocal performances of the 1997-98 Moscow season.