

Dmitri Shostakovich (1906-1975) · *Krzysztof Meyer* (*1943)

THE GAMBLERS [1942 · without opus number, completed version 1981]

Opera in 2 acts based on the comedy of the same name by Nikolai Gogol [scenes 1-8a: Dmitri Shostakovich, scenes 8b-22: Krzysztof Meyer, Op. 53]

Russian – German by Jörg Morgener

full eve [Shostakovich portion: ~50']

Ikharev, landowner	tenor
Utshitelny, decent nobleman	baritone
Shvokhnev, nobleman	bass
Krugel, General	tenor
Mikhail Glov, honourable family father	bass
Alexander Glov, student	tenor
Gavryushka, Ikharyev's servant	bass
Alexei, waiter	bass
Samukhryshkin, official	baritone

3(picc, alto fl).3(cor anglais).4(Eb clar, bass clar).3(db bn) – 4.3.3.1 – timp. perc (tgl, cast, tamb, side dr, bass dr, cym, xyl). balalaika. 2 harps. piano. strings

■ *Piano reduction: SIK 2195*

Proud of his digital dexterity and his own specially prepared playing cards, the card-sharp Ikharev goes for three hotel guests in order to cheat them at cards. He soon recognises, that they belong to the same guild as he does and they decide, all four together, to cheat another hotel guest, the landowner Glov. The latter regrets having to depart soon but persuades his son Sascha, who must remain there, to wait for the payment of the large sum that Glov wanted to collect for the marriage of his daughter. Now Sascha is the victim. He loses the entire expected sum at cards, on which he issues a transfer and a corresponding authority. By bribing the financial officials, the quartet attempts to hasten the payment in the office, for the former trio is pressed for time; another, very urgent "item of business" requires their presence. They therefore entrust Ikharyev with the transfer and receive all his cash for this. Ikharyev believes that he has made a big profit. After the trio very suddenly departs, Sascha explains the true state of things to him: Glov and the financial officials are also swindlers and connected with the card-sharps. They had promised him money if he would carry out the swindle with Ikharyev. Thus two bruised individuals remain behind.