

ELENA KATS-CHERNIN

Russian Rag

arranged for the Sydney Omega Ensemble

2007

This arrangement was commissioned by
the Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre
for the 50th Birthday Gala Concert of Elena Kats-Chernin's music
on the 24th November 2007

Instrumentation

Flute
Oboe
Clarinet
Bassoon
Horn
Violin I
Violin II
Viola
Cello
Double Bass

Programme Notes

Russian Rag was written as a piece for piano solo in 1996 for Donna Coleman's CD *Rags to Riches* (ABC Classics). It was the first Ragtime Elena Kats-Chernin has ever written, but it started a passion for writing rags that resulted in *Book of Rags* (12 rags), as well as more such pieces since then, for example: *Cocktail Rag*, *Sapphire Rag*, *Black Cat Rag*, *Birthday Rag*. *Russian Rag* was later arranged by Kats-Chernin for Sydney Alpha Ensemble for 8 players; this version appears on the CD *Clocks* (ABC Classics, 1997). It has also had a life as a piece called *Why Not* for clarinet, trombone and prepared piano on a CD, *Unceremonious Processions* (Wergo label, 1999).

Since then, Kats-Chernin has arranged a version for flute, cello and piano, as well as versions for violin and piano; bassoon and piano; clarinet and piano. In 2007 Kats-Chernin added versions for four clarinets (for Clarity Quartet in Canberra) as well as for string quartet (for Sculthorpe String Quartet). There is also a shorter simpler version for piano in A minor, which Kats-Chernin wrote in 2005.