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*Contemplating Shostakovich: Life, Music and Film* marks an important new stage in the understanding of Shostakovich and his working environment. Each chapter covers aspects of the composer's output in the context of his life and cultural milieu. The contributions uncover 'outside' stimuli behind Shostakovich's works, allowing the reader to perceive the motivations behind his artistic choices; at the same time, the nature of those choices offers insights into the workings of the larger world – cultural, social, political – that he inhabited. Thus his often ostensibly quirky choices are revealed as responses – by turns sentimental, moving, sardonic and angry – to the particular conditions, with all their absurdities and contradictions, that he had to negotiate. Here we see the composer emerging from the role of tortured loner of older narratives into that of the gregarious and engaged member of his society that, for better and worse, characterized the everyday reality of his life.

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Cover illustration: Dmitri Shostakovich at the rehearsal of his Symphony No. 12 at the Great Hall of the Leningrad Philharmonia on 23 September 1961 (photograph by G.I. Chertov). Reproduced by kind permission of the D.D. Shostakovich Archives, Moscow.

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Contemplating Shostakovich: Life, Music and Film

IVASHKIN  
AND KIRKMAN

# Contemplating Shostakovich: Life, Music and Film

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AND ANDREW KIRKMAN



**Alexander Ivashkin** is a professional cellist with an international career. He is Professor of Music, Director of Classical Performance and Director of the Centre for Russian Music at Goldsmiths, University of London. He has recorded over forty award-winning CDs, including the complete cello music by Rakhmaninov, Prokofiev, Shostakovich, Schnittke, Roslavets, Tcherenine, and Kancheli for Chandos.

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