

Suite Ancienne

Albert Coates.

Suite Ancienne was the first of Mr Coates' earliest compositions, written in St. Petersburg in 1910. It originally consisted of five movements including "The Sarabande" and " Courante", but Mr Coates has long discarded these two.

The others are "Prelude and Fugue" "Minuet," and "Finale" in the style of a passacaglia. The first and last movements are written for big orchestra with organ in the style of Bach Rameau. The second movement, the "Minuet d'Amour" is old French in character with the harp giving early French Court atmosphere.

"Eugene Onegin", Tchaikoffsky's Opera was based on a romance by Pushkin.

The heroine Tatiana, a young and unsophisticated country lady, much given to reading sentimental novels, falls in love with Onegin at first sight, who unfortunately for her is a blase aristocrat, a man of the world, whom chance alone has brought to the peaceful surroundings of her home.

Tatiana sees in him the fulfillment of her dreams and impulsively writes him a letter, the subject of our song tonight, confessing her love.

The next morning Onegin meets her and offers her brotherly love, but no more....they part.

Years later Tatiana makes a princely marriage.

Onegin returning to St Petersburg, from his wanderings, is invited to a fashionable ball where Tatiana is greeted as the "beautiful Princess" He falls madly in love with her and begs for an interview, which she grants but, despite all his passionate appeals for forgiveness and altho' she confesses to still loving him, she rejects all his advances.

The name of Tatiana has become the symbol of the highest ideal of Russian womanhood.

V & A Coates.

The notes on the Classical Symphony by Prokovieff as well as those on "The Sorcerer's Apprentice" and Francesca da Rimini, can be obtained from Mr Geoffrey Miller, the Musical Director, City Hall, Capetown.