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VINYL CLASSICS

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- COLLECTOR'S EDITION
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LIMITED EDITION

LONG PLAY 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ R.P.M.

STEREO

**VAN CLIBURN,
KIRIL KONDRASHIN
& THE RCA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**
TCHAIKOVSKY CONCERTO No. 1



Tchaikovsky
PIANO CONCERTO No. 1,
IN B-FLAT MINOR, Op. 23

SIDE 1

First Movement: Allegro non troppo e molto maestoso;
Allegro con spirito (20:44)

SIDE 2

Second Movement: Andante semplice; Prestissimo;
Tempo I (7:02)
Third Movement: Allegro con fuoco (6:53)

Van Cliburn, *Pianist*
THE RCA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Under the direction of
Kiril Kondrashin

The *Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No. 1* was the first recording of **Van Cliburn** in 1958 for RCA Victor. It won Cliburn a Grammy and was the first classical recording to go platinum, that is to sell more than a million copies. The RCA Victor Symphony Orchestra was conducted by Kiril Kondrashin who at Cliburn's request had been allowed to leave Russia. Earning critical comparison to the likes of Rubinstein, Horowitz, and Paderewski, Cliburn became something of a phenomenon. In 1958 he journeyed to Moscow to compete in the First International Tchaikovsky Piano Competition; even at the peak of Cold War tensions, he performed so brilliantly that, with the approval of

Premier Nikita Khrushchev, the judges proclaimed him the gold medalist. Cliburn's victory was the stuff of international headlines, and he returned to the U.S. to the welcome of a New York City ticker-tape parade – the first and only time a classical musician has been so honored. He became a media figure on a par with the era's biggest pop stars and Hollywood idols – in Philadelphia, fans even ripped off the door to his limousine. Within days of his return, Cliburn performed at a sold-out Carnegie Hall; his recitations of Tchaikovsky's First and Rachmaninov's Third Piano Concertos were recorded by RCA, and issued to enormous success.