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LEOKADIYA KASHPEROVA

*Biography, 'Memoirs'
and 'Recollections of Anton
Rubinstein'*

Graham Griffiths
City, University of London

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Leokadiya Kashperova

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Abstract: Leokadiya Kashperova (1872–1940) was a Russian composer, concert pianist and Stravinsky's most significant piano teacher. Her Romantic compositions were highly regarded by Rimsky-Korsakov and César Cui, and her playing was admired by Balakirev, whose works she premiered and recorded. In 1907, Kashperova performed her own compositions to critical acclaim in Leipzig, Berlin and London. After the 1917 Revolution, barely a note of her music was heard again. Following Kashperova's death in 1940, even her name, once familiar to concert audiences within Russia and abroad, joined her fine music in historical anonymity and oblivion. This publication is the result of twenty years' research culminating in eight study-visits by the author to St Petersburg, Moscow and the Yaroslavl/Kostroma region. The Biography (Section 1) is the first ever written about this composer. Kashperova's 'Memoirs' (Section 2) and her 'Recollections of Anton Rubinstein' (Section 3) are made available in translation for the first time. Together with a new edition of her compositions (Boosey & Hawkes, London), this Element aims to support the restoration of Kashperova to her rightful place in music history as Russia's foremost female composer of the early twentieth century.

This Element also has a video abstract: https://youtu.be/6WQ_BswMUC4

Keywords: Russia, female composer, pianist, Anton Rubinstein, Stravinsky

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Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| 1 Biography: A Life in Music | 1 |
| 2 The <i>Memoirs</i> of Leokadiya Kashperova (1929) | 39 |
| 3 <i>Recollections of Anton Rubinstein</i> (1929) by Leokadiya Kashperova | 57 |
| Catalogue of Compositions | 62 |
| Bibliography and Further Reading | 66 |