

Sunday Times

PROKOFIEV

Romeo and Juliet

Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra, cond Vasily Petrenko

LAWO Classics LWC1105

Petrenko proves himself no less authoritative in Prokofiev with his new orchestra, the Oslo Philharmonic, than in his Shostakovich cycle with the RLPO. *Romeo and Juliet* is one of Prokofiev's most popular scores, but recordings of the complete ballet are rare. Petrenko's Norwegian band yield nothing in virtuosity — the strings are staggering in the fight — to Russian peers. The dramatic episodes sizzle, but there is poignancy in the balcony scene and Juliet's death. One listens with refreshed ears. *HC*