



SERGEI RACHMANINOFF

A LIFETIME IN MUSIC



Sergei Bertensson & Jay Leyda
Introduction by David Butler Cannata

Sergei Rachmaninoff A Lifetime In Music Russian Music Studies

Fiona Maddocks



Sergei Rachmaninoff A Lifetime In Music Russian Music Studies:

Sergei Rachmaninoff Sergei Bertensson, Jay Leyda, 2001 Throughout his career as composer conductor and pianist Sergei Rachmaninoff 1873 1943 was an intensely private individual When Bertensson and Leyda s 1956 biography appeared it lifted the veil of secrecy on several areas of Rachmaninoff s life especially concerning the genesis of his compositions and how he was affected by their critical reception These pages are fabulously peopled Here we find the Tchaikovsky brothers Rimsky Korsakov Scriabin Glazunov and Stravinsky as well as Chekhov Stanislavsky Chaliapin Fokine Hofmann and Horowitz This biography reflects direct consultation with a number of people who knew Rachmaninoff worked with him and corresponded with him Even with the availability of such sources and full access to the Rachmaninoff Archive at the Library of Congress Bertensson Leyda and Satina Rachmaninoff s cousin and sister in law were tireless in their pursuit of privately held documents particularly correspondence The wonderfully engaging product of their labours masterfully incorporates primary materials into the narrative Almost half a century after it first appeared this volume remains essential reading

Rachmaninoff and His World Philip Ross Bullock, 2022-08-12 A biography of composer Sergei Rachmaninoff published in collaboration with the Bard Music Festival One of the most popular classical composers of all time Sergei Rachmaninoff 1873 1943 has often been dismissed by critics as a conservative nostalgic holdover of the nineteenth century and a composer fundamentally hostile to musical modernism The original essays collected here show how he was more responsive to aspects of contemporary musical life than is often thought and how his deeply felt sense of Russianness coexisted with an appreciation of American and European culture In particular the essays document his involvement with intellectual and artistic circles in prerevolutionary Moscow and how the form of modernity they promoted shaped his early output This volume represents one of the first serious explorations of Rachmaninoff s successful career as a composer pianist and conductor first in late Imperial Russia and then after emigration in both the United States and interwar Europe Shedding light on some unfamiliar works especially his three operas and his many songs the book also includes a substantial number of new documents illustrating Rachmaninoff s celebrity status in America

Russian Music at Home and Abroad Richard Taruskin, 2016-09-06 This new collection views Russian music through the Greek triad of the Good the True and the Beautiful to investigate how the idea of nation embeds itself in the public discourse about music and other arts with results at times invigorating at times corrupting In our divided post Cold War and now post 9 11 world Russian music formerly a quiet corner on the margins of musicology has become a site of noisy contention Richard Taruskin assesses the political and cultural stakes that attach to it in the era of Pussy Riot and renewed international tensions before turning to individual cases from the nineteenth century to the present Much of the volume is devoted to the resolutely cosmopolitan but inveterately Russian Igor Stravinsky one of the major forces in the music of the twentieth century and subject of particular interest to composers and music theorists all over the world Taruskin here revisits him for the first time since the 1990s when everything changed for

Russia and its cultural products Other essays are devoted to the cultural and social policies of the Soviet Union and their effect on the music produced there as those policies swung away from Communist internationalism to traditional Russian nationalism to the musicians of the Russian postrevolutionary diaspora and to the tension between the compelling artistic quality of works such as Stravinsky's *Sacre du Printemps* or Prokofiev's *Zdravitsa* and the antihumanistic or totalitarian messages they convey *Russian Music at Home and Abroad* addresses these concerns in a personal and critical way characteristically demonstrating Taruskin's authority and ability to bring living history out of the shadows

Historical Dictionary of Russian Music Daniel Jaffé, 2022-02-15 Russian music today has a firm hold around the world in the repertoire of opera houses ballet companies and orchestras The music of Pyotr Tchaikovsky Nikolai Rimsky Korsakov Sergey Rachmaninov Sergey Prokofiev and Dmitri Shostakovich is very much today's lingua franca both in the concert hall and on the soundtracks of international blockbusters from Hollywood Meanwhile the innovations of Modest Musorgsky Alexander Borodin and Igor Stravinsky have played their crucial role in the development of Western music influencing the work of virtually every notable composer of the past century *Historical Dictionary of Russian Music* Second Edition contains a chronology an introduction and an extensive bibliography The dictionary section has more than 600 cross referenced entries for each of Russia's major performing organizations and performance venues and on specific genres such as ballet film music symphony and church music This book is an excellent resource for students researchers and anyone wanting to know more about Russian Music

Performing Tsarist Russia in New York Natalie K. Zelensky, 2019-04-24 An examination of the popular music culture of the post Bolshevik Russian emigration and the impact made by this group on American culture and politics *Performing Tsarist Russia in New York* begins with a rich account of the musical evenings that took place in the Russian migr enclave of Harlem in the 1920s and weaves through the world of Manhattan's Russian restaurants Tin Pan Alley industry Broadway productions 1939 World's Fair Soviet music distributors postwar Russian parish musical life and Cold War radio programming to close with today's Russian ball scene exploring how the idea of Russia Abroad has taken shape through various spheres of music production in New York over the course of a century Engaging in an analysis of musical styles performance practice sheet music cover art the discourses surrounding this music and the sonic somatic and social realms of dance author Natalie K Zelensky demonstrates the central role played by music in shaping and maintaining the Russian migr diaspora over multiple generations as well as the fundamental paradox underlying this process that music's sustaining power in this case rests on its proclivity to foster collective narratives of an idealized prerevolutionary Russia while often evolving stylistically to remain relevant to its makers listeners and dancers By combining archival research with fieldwork and interviews with Russian migr's of various generations and emigration waves Zelensky presents a close historical and ethnographic examination of music's potential as an aesthetic discursive and social space through which diasporans can engage with an idea of a mythologized homeland and in turn the vital role played by music in the organization development

and reception of Russia Abroad **The ^AOxford Handbook of Shakespeare and Music** Christopher R. Wilson, Mervyn Cooke, 2022-02-11 The Oxford Handbook of Shakespeare and Music showcases the latest international research into the captivating and vast subject of the many uses of music in relation to Shakespeare's plays and poems extending from the Bard's own time to the present day *Sergei Rachmaninoff* Valeria Z. Nollan, 2022-10-03 Valeria Z Nollan's biography of perhaps the finest pianist of the twentieth century plunges readers into Rachmaninoff's complex inner world Sergei Rachmaninoff Cross Rhythms of the Soul is the first biography of Rachmaninoff in English that presents him in the fullness of his Russian identity As someone whose own life in Russian emigration ran in parallel ways to Rachmaninoff's own and whose meetings with the composer's grandson in Switzerland informed her work Nollan brings important cultural insights into her observations of the activities of this generation of creative artists She also traces the intricacies of Rachmaninoff's relations with the women closest to him whose imprints are palpable in his compositions and introduces a mystery woman whose existence challenges our established narrative of his life *Nietzsche's Orphans* Rebecca Mitchell, 2016-01-05 A prevailing belief among Russia's cultural elite in the early twentieth century was that the music of composers such as Sergei Rachmaninoff Aleksandr Scriabin and Nikolai Medtner could forge a shared identity for the Russian people across social and economic divides In this illuminating study of competing artistic and ideological visions at the close of Russia's Silver Age author Rebecca Mitchell interweaves cultural history music and philosophy to explore how Nietzsche's orphans strove to find in music a means to overcome the disunity of modern life in the final tumultuous years before World War I and the Communist Revolution **Goodbye Russia** Fiona Maddocks, 2024-01-02 The moving story of Rachmaninoff's years in exile and the composition of his last great work set against a cataclysmic backdrop of two world wars and personal tragedy In 1940 Sergei Rachmaninoff living in exile in America broke his creative silence and composed a swan song to his Russian homeland his iconic Symphonic Dances What happened in those final haunted years and how did he come to write his farewell masterpiece Rachmaninoff left Petrograd now St Petersburg in 1917 during the throes of the Russian Revolution He was forty-four years old at the peak of his powers as composer conductor performer moving in elite Tsarist circles as well as running the family estate his refuge and solace He had already written the music which today has made him one of the most popular composers of all time the second and third Piano Concertos and two symphonies The story of his years in exile in America and Switzerland has only been told in passing Reeling from the trauma of a life in upheaval he wrote almost no music and quickly had to reinvent himself as a famed virtuoso pianist building up untold wealth and meeting the stars from Walt Disney and Charlie Chaplin to his Russian contemporaries and polar opposites Prokofiev and Stravinsky Yet the melancholy of leaving his homeland never lifted Using a wide range of sources including important newly translated texts Fiona Maddocks's immensely readable book conjures impressions of this enigmatic figure his friends and the world he encountered It explores his life as an emigré artist and how he clung to an Old Russia which no longer existed That forging of

past and present meets in his Symphonic Dances 1940 his last composition written on Long Island shortly before his death in Beverly Hills surrounded by a close knit circle of exiles Goodbye Russia is a moving and prismatic look at Rachmaninoff and his iconic final work *Rachmaninoff's Complete Songs* Richard D. Sylvester, 2024-06-06 Sergei Rachmaninoff the last great Russian romantic and arguably the finest pianist of the late 19th and early 20th centuries wrote 83 songs which are performed and beloved throughout the world Like German Lieder and French m lodies the songs were composed for one singer accompanied by a piano In this complete collection Richard D Sylvester provides English translations of the songs along with accurate transliterations of the original texts and detailed commentary Since Rachmaninoff viewed these romances primarily as performances and painstakingly annotated the scores this volume will be especially valuable for students scholars and practitioners of voice and piano

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