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Piano Concertos Nos. 1, 2 And 3 In Full Score



Synopsis

Just as Serge Rachmaninoff's piano virtuosity ranked him among the greatest pianists of the twentieth century, his compositions for piano and orchestra won him an important position among modern composers. Among the works that ensure his reputation are the first three piano concertos, reprinted here from the authoritative full-score Russian editions. Rachmaninoff wrote the stirring Piano Concerto No. 1 in the years 1890-91, while he was still a young student at the Moscow Conservatory, and revised it nearly three decades later in 1917, when he began to devote his life mainly to his international career as a piano virtuoso. The immense and enduring success of the Piano Concerto No. 2, completed in 1901, has made this romantic work one of the most performed and recorded in the concerto literature and one of the most familiar compositions in all of music. The powerful and expressive Piano Concerto No. 3 was composed for a concert tour of America, during which Rachmaninoff appeared with great success as composer, pianist, and conductor. Like the first two concertos, it remains a repertoire favorite in concert halls around the world. All three acclaimed works are reprinted in this finely made yet remarkably inexpensive Dover edition. Musicians and music lovers will find it a convenient single-volume source from which to study intimately three major works of the twentieth century.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Buy this score for the Second or Third concertos, not the First. Dover has made a serious mistake in reprinting what it claims is a 1960s Russian printing of the First Piano Concerto. The edition here

simply isn't the standard version of the 1917 revision of the concerto. At the same time, it isn't the original version, either. Structurally, it seems to be identical to the revised version, but much of the piano figuration (I'm unsure about the orchestral part) is based on the original version. I have no idea how this hybrid came about - perhaps it was compiled from an intermediate version in the revision process, or perhaps it was created by the publisher. At any rate, it's not much use in studying the modern version of this concerto. Boosey has published the First Concerto together with the Second. This score (ISBN 9780851624440) is excellent, highly readable, and available at a very reasonable price from this site here.

The Rachmaninoff Piano Concertos are among the hardest ever written. This book does a good job of showing the composer's intentions. Its inclusion of the ossia version as well as the simplified version of the solo part helps the reader to compare the two. Also, the orchestra parts are easily read and well spaced. There is never too much or too little on one page. It is a great book for conductors, pianists, or anyone else who loves the Rach concerti. This is a must have for any serious piano concerto fan!

What to say...This book contains the 3 most beautiful pieces of music ever written; if you had the luck to listen to them you'll know why. And if you're a musician, you'll want to play them (or at least a part of them, since they're treacherous hard to play..). And what's the best way to fully understand a concert in its greatness, if not the full score? Maybe somebody can think that the notes are a little tiny, but I personally find them perfectly clear, with the ossias, too. If you're a real musician, you'll love this wonderful product!

Not owning a piano nor having the requisite skill to do much in the way of playing (but knowing basic sight-reading), I've lately been enjoying getting the sheet music for some of the really impressive pieces I've run across, to attempt to follow along, or just get an idea of what's really behind all of those arrangements. I bought this book on a bit of an impulse after re-watching the film "Shine", which features bits of the "Rach 3", and having read a good bit about Rachmaninoff [...]. It just floors me, how performers, both in the picture and in real life (such as the Van Cliburn performance I found on yahoo.com Music), can get off some of the stuff that's in those notes, particularly those rapidly-arpeggiated sequences of complex chords. What I figure would be next is to take a disc sander and remove the binding, then punch notebook binder holes on the sides, so that it might actually sit on a piano music holder, though of course, for me only a decoration. To those who would

actually dare a performance, I give my respect.

Regarding those who say that the type is too small to allow pianists to learn their parts from this version of the score: fine, get a 2-piano version for your technical mastery of the music, BUT get this too if you want to be a real musician when learning this music. [The same applies to singers and other instrumentalists when dealing with concerti and other such works, period - never rely only on the vocal/instrumental arrangements with piano...] This is an excellent edition and deserves its full 5 stars!!!

It's awesome how the piano interacts with the orchestra. You have to be a quick music reader to keep up. His writing this while still a student in the Moscow conservatory is just a preview of what a notable pianist and composer he would become.

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