

Nunc Dimittis

Music by Sergei Rachmaninoff

*Arranged for Cello Solo
with String Orchestra*

by David Winkler

INSTRUMENTATION

Violin 1
Violin 2
Violin 3
Viola (doubles Violin 3)
Viola
Cello 1
Cello 2
Double Bass
Piano (optional)

PERFORMANCE NOTES

Rachmaninoff's *All-Night Vigil*, Opus 37 (also known as "Vespers") is a 15-movement a cappella choral work written and premiered in 1915. (Sadly, within two years, Rachmaninoff and his family would flee their homeland during the Russian Revolution, never to return). The piece consists of settings of texts taken from the Russian Orthodox liturgy. The fifth number is a Slavic version of what is known in Latin as the "Nunc Dimittis." The lyrics are based on the story from the gospel of Luke of a godly man named Simeon who, on seeing the child Jesus and believing him to be God's promised Messiah, exclaimed, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace."

In this arrangement, a solo cello takes the line of the tenor soloist, and the orchestra replaces the choir. At times, the choir divides into as many as eight parts – thus, the slightly larger than normal string orchestra instrumentation. The key has been transposed from the original B-flat minor to the much more string-friendly key of A minor.

It is interesting that the *Nunc Dimittis* was requested by Rachmaninoff to be sung at his funeral.

David Winkler

Nunc Dimittis

“Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace ...” Luke 2:29

Cello Solo with String Orchestra

Music by Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)

from *All-Night Vigil*, Op. 37, No. 5

Arranged by David Winkler

Quite slowly (♩ = ca. 50-56)

molto espress.

mf

pp

pp

pp

pp

p lightly / Bell-like

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Solo Vcl.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vln. 3

Vla.
(for Vln. 3)

Vla.

Vcl. 1

Vcl. 2

Bass

Pno.

8 9 10 11 12 13

mf *f*

molto espress.

p *mp*

p *mp*

p

p

p (stagger bowing)

p *lightly*

SAMPLE SCORE

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poco rit. gradually building

Solo Vcl. *mf* *p*

Vln. 1 (stagger bowing) *pp*

Vln. 2 *p* *pp* *mf*

Vln. 3 *pp*

Vla. (for Vln. 3) (stagger bowing)

Vla. *pp* *mp* *mf*

Vcl. 1 *mf*

Vcl. 2 *mf*

Bass Cello/Contra *mp* (play) *mp*

Pno. *mp* *mf*

14 15 16 17 18 19

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poco rit. *rit.* (Vln. 1 & 2) *a tempo*

Solo Vcl. *p*

Vln. 1 *mf* *f* *ff* *subito p*

Vln. 2 *f* *ff* *subito p* (Vln. 1 & 2) (play)

Vln. 3 *mf* *f* *ff* *p* *p*

Vla. (for Vln. 3) *mf* *f* *ff* *p* *p*

Vla. *f* *ff* *p* *p*

Vcl. 1 *f* *ff* *p* (Vln. 1 & 2)

Vcl. 2 *mf* *f* *ff* *p* (Vln. 1 & 2)

Bass *mf* *f* *ff* *p* (Vln. 1 & 2)

Pno. *f* *ff* *p* (Vln. 1 & 2)

20 21 22 23 24 25

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poco rit. (play) *mf*

Solo Vcl.

Vln. 1 *mp* *mf* *p*

Vln. 2

Vln. 3

Vla. (for Vln. 3)

Vla.

Vcl. 1 (play) *p*

Vcl. 2 (play) *p*

Bass

Pno. *p* lightly / Bell-like

26 27 28 29 30 31

SAMPLE SCORE

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[illegible]