

More About A RACHMANINOFF RHAPSODY

Written in 2018 in commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the death of Sergei Rachmaninoff, **A Rachmaninoff Rhapsody** presents some of the great Russian composer's best-loved music in a colorful new arrangement for concert band.

The first few measures of his wordless song **Vocalise** provide a gentle introduction, which is cut short by the restless opening theme from the first movement of the **Third Piano Concerto** (made even more famous--or notorious--than it already was by the 1996 film **Shine**).

The title-suggesting centerpiece follows, the beautiful and passionate **18th Variation** from **Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini**. That leads to the most familiar of all of Rachmaninoff's "Big Tunes," the romantic theme from the finale of his **Second Piano Concerto**, the coda of which also provides the finale to this tribute.

Although, except for the introduction, this entire piece is transcribed from music for piano and orchestra, I didn't include piano in the score. Where the piano has a prominent part, I used brass and xylophone to fill in for it.