

NAXOS

RACHMANINOV: Vespers

8.555908

Written during Rachmaninov's most creative period, which culminated in the *Second* and *Third Piano Concertos*, the 1915 *All-Night Vigil*, popularly known as *Vespers*, is a masterpiece of 20th-century sacred music. Inspired by the Saturday All-Night Vigil celebrated in the Russian Orthodox Church, Rachmaninov's setting is remarkable for its melodic invention, choral virtuosity and Slavic intensity.

Sergey
RACHMANINOV
(1873-1943)

Vespers (All-Night Vigil)

- | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|------|----|---------------------------------------|------|
| 1 | Come, let us worship | 1:41 | 10 | Having beheld the | |
| 2 | Bless the Lord, O my soul | 5:57 | | Resurrection | 2:57 |
| 3 | Blessed is the man | 3:56 | 11 | Hymn of Thanksgiving to the | |
| 4 | Gladsome light | 2:41 | | Mother of God | 6:21 |
| 5 | Canticle of Simeon | 3:29 | 12 | The Great Doxology | 7:28 |
| 6 | Troparion for the | | 13 | Troparion of the | |
| | Virgin Mary | 3:25 | | Resurrection I | 1:54 |
| 7 | Intonation to the Hexapsalm | 2:15 | 14 | Troparion of the | |
| 8 | Polyeleopsalm | 1:56 | | Resurrection II | 3:09 |
| 9 | Troparia of the Resurrection | 5:18 | 15 | Kontakion for the Annunciation | |
| | | | | of the Virgin Mary | 1:31 |

Raissa Palmu, Soprano • Erja Wimeri, Contralto • Eugen Antoni, Tenor
Finnish National Opera Chorus • Eric-Olof Söderström

Recorded at St John Church, Helsinki, Finland, on 1st April, 29th, 30th, 31st May, and 5th June, 2001
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Booklet Notes: Hilkka Seppälä

Cover Picture: *The Mother of God*, a prophesy icon of the Novgorod School, Russia
(Private collection, Moscow)

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