

In the face of the devastation wrought by the First World War, Alexander Kastalsky conceived a musical service of remembrance for the fallen. A pivotal figure in Russian musical life – he was a student of Tchaikovsky and acclaimed as the founder of a new, national church music – Kastalsky composed a choral-orchestral Requiem, for the concert stage. Simultaneously, he worked on the a cappella version heard on this recording to be sung in Russian Orthodox churches. Following the basic structure of the Orthodox *Panihida*, or memorial service, *Memory Eternal*, and the short sacred pieces that end the programme, reveal Kastalsky's masterful use of choral sonority and colour, his weaving of complex polyphonic textures, and his graceful use of ancient chant melodies.

Alexander
KASTALSKY
(1856–1926)

Vechnaya Pamiat Geroyam
(‘Memory Eternal to the Fallen Heroes’)

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| 1–11 | Vechnaya Pamiat Geroyam (‘Memory Eternal to the Fallen Heroes’) (1917) | 39:38 |
| 12 | Miloserdiya dveri (‘Doors of Thy Mercy’) (1897) | 4:38 |
| 13 | Ot yunosti moyeya (‘From my youth’) (1905) | 4:48 |
| 14 | Blazheni, yazhe izbral (‘Blessed are they’) (1900) | 5:48 |

WORLD PREMIERE RECORDINGS

The Clarion Choir • Steven Fox

A detailed track list may be found on page 2 of the booklet.

The Church Slavonic texts, transliterations and English translations may be found inside the booklet, and may also be accessed at www.naxos.com/libretti/573889.htm

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Producer: Martha de Francisco • Engineers: Martha de Francisco, Brian Losch

Associate conductor: Benedict Sheehan • Assistant engineer: Gintas Norvila

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(Editors: Vladimir Morosan **1–11** **12** **14** and Benedict Sheehan **13**) • Cover design by Alexan Kolancian



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