

In autumn 2008 Channel 4 sent the sixteen-year-old British-Russian composer-conductor Alex Prior around the world: his task, to find 'The World's Greatest Musical Prodigies' for a TV series with that title and to compose a concerto for them, which Alex would conduct. The resulting work, *Veleslavitsa* (the title means 'Glory to Veles', the god of music in ancient Slav cultures), is steeped in the Russian Romantic tradition, with echoes especially of Mussorgsky and Rimsky-Korsakov. This live recording features the ten-year-old Chinese pianist Zhang Xiao Ming, the American violinists Simone Porter and Michael Province, twelve and thirteen, and the fifteen-year-old American cellist Nathan Chan.



## ALEXANDER PRIOR *Veleslavitsa*

- |   |                           |       |  |
|---|---------------------------|-------|--|
| 1 | <i>Maestoso – Allegro</i> | 17:08 | 'a triumph. The concerto is an exhilarating, rip-roaring melodic noise [...]. And the four young musicians [...] rise to the occasion like seasoned professionals' |
| 2 | <i>Grave</i>              | 17:42 |  |
| 3 | <i>Presto</i>             | 11:45 | <i>The Times</i>   |

Zhang Xiao Ming , piano  
 Michael Province, violin 1  
 Simone Porter, violin 2  
 Nathan Chan, cello  
 Northern Sinfonia  
 Alexander Prior, conductor

TT 46:35

FIRST RECORDING, MADE LIVE AT  
 THE SAGE, GATESHEAD, ON 29 APRIL 2009

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