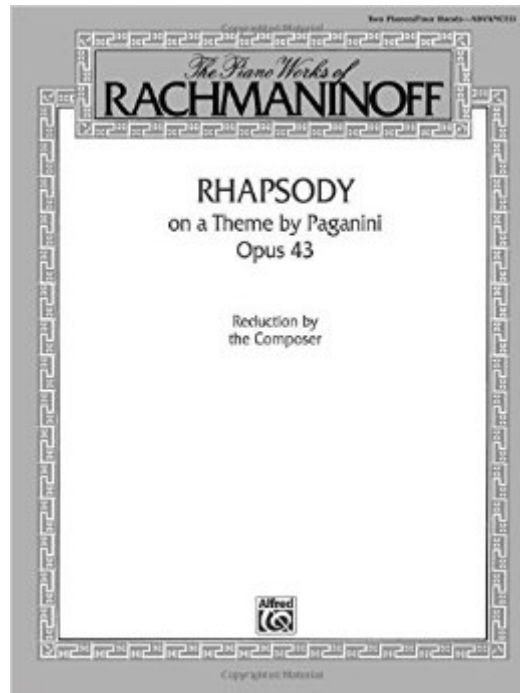# Rhapsody On A Theme By Paganini, Opus 43, For Two Pianos/Four Hands (Belwin Edition)

Synopsis

This beautiful edition is made from the original 1934 2-piano score which is a reduction made by Rachmaninoff himself. The score is very clear and readable, and is configured in 4-staff systems, Piano I and Piano II, so two separate books are required for performance.

Book Information

Series: Belwin Edition

Paperback: 92 pages

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Product Dimensions: 0.2 x 8.8 x 11.8 inches

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (5 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #986,487 in Books (See Top 100 in Books)   #33 inÂ Books > Humor & Entertainment > Sheet Music & Scores > Composers > Rachmaninoff   #328 inÂ Books > Humor & Entertainment > Sheet Music & Scores > Historical Period > Late Romantic   #1903 inÂ Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Opera > Songbooks

Customer Reviews

Many people are familiar with the 18th variation of "Rhapsody on a Theme by Paganini" from the movie "Somewhere in Time." It's a very romantic piece. If you familiar with the 18th variation only, you should treat yourself to listening to all the variations played back to back in the "Rhapsody."This book has those variations which have been reduced by Rachmaninoff for two pianos/four hands. I wish, of course, it had been a piano solo, because I would probably get a lot more use out of it."Rhapsody" is strictly for the advanced pianist. This edition has no fingering notations which would have been helpful for all except the most advanced players. And, those players may find Rachmaninoff's "Rhapsody" not as challenging or rewarding because of the repetition involved in its themes. However, I find "Rhapsody" very rewarding to play largely due to its romantic themes and its capacity for expressive interpretations. The 18th variation played by itself is an enjoyable recital piece. I give this book my highest recommendation.

Having heard this piece many times in my childhood and having heard the Paganini caprice for

which this concerto is based off of, I had been wanting to play Rachmaninoff's Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini for a very, very long time. Around two years ago, I purchased this edition off here in order to begin learning the concerto. The score is a two piano reduction, which essentially means that the orchestral accompaniment has essentially been reduced to just one piano, thus the inclusion of the second piano. As mentioned by a previous reviewer, the lack of finger notation in the score may pose challenges to players who are not as familiar, but I personally love being able to figure out fingerings for myself so I didn't have a problem with that at all. The most famous and most beautiful (in my opinion) variation of the piece is the eighteenth variation which actually consists of a part of the original Paganini line except inverted and in a different key which I thought was extremely interesting. As for the book itself, my score has held up quite well in the last two years, but I noticed that the cover has started to peel off a bit so I reinforced the cover with transparent tape, and it's been fine ever since. For anyone interested in learning the complete Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, I would highly recommend getting this score as a starter.

I did not realize this was of the entire concerto. It is, so then I had to search for the most popular section/portion. That took a bit of doing. Finally, I attempted to play. It is very difficult. I was not up to the challenge but perhaps you will be.

A very detailed, intricate piece of music. I give this a 10 star rating out of 5. You will love this work, in fact this is the very first piece of music from Rachmaninoff I heard and it caused my heart to swell and fall in love with his creations...

The piece itself is great, as you might already know. This edition of the score is clean and clear, and I feel very comfortable reading it.

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