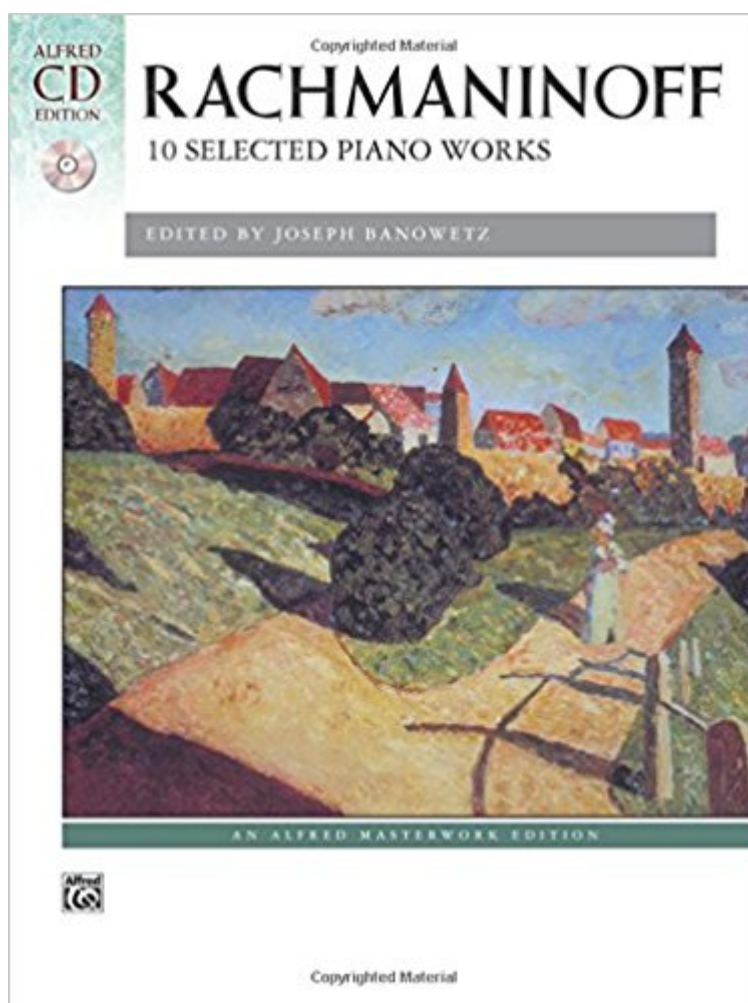


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Rachmaninoff -- 10 Selected Piano Works: Book & CD (Alfred Masterwork CD Edition)



Synopsis

Internationally renowned concert pianist Joseph Banowetz presents this inspired collection of Sergei Rachmaninoff's most cherished original masterworks. This volume includes a comprehensive preface with detailed performance notes on the music, vintage photographs, and the composer's biography. The companion CD features a brilliant performance by Joseph Banowetz. Titles: Untitled Composition, Op. posth. * Flight of the Bumble Bee * Humoresque, Op. 10, No. 5 (second version) * Nocturne, Op. 10, No. 1 * Morceau de fantaisie (Fantasy Piece) * Elégie, Op. 3, No. 1 * Romance, Op. 10, No. 6 * Polichinelle, Op. 3, No. 4 * Prelude, Op. 3, No. 2 * Moment musical, Op. 16, No. 5 Joseph Banowetz graduated with a First Prize from the Vienna Akademie für Musik und darstellende Kunst. Banowetz has been a piano recitalist and orchestral soloist on five continents. He was awarded the Liszt Medal by the Hungarian Liszt Society in recognition of his outstanding performances of Liszt and the Romantic literature.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I bought this book for two pieces: "Prelude" and the "Flight of the Bumble Bee" interpretation by Rachmaninoff. What is most helpful is the CD that comes with it. I know how the pieces should sound. Priced well for what I received, and I especially appreciate the CD.

Very good book, my son loves it.

Great edition. Includes pieces that I don't have time for, but half I can read. pgs

Rachmaninoff's music should be in every pianist's repertoire. Although he also composed choral works, chamber music, and opera, Rachmaninoff will always be best remembered for his solo piano works. The works in this book span from all periods of his career. If you are a piano student this book will be an excellent edition for your classes and is also accepted at piano competitions. I wouldn't recommend this book unless you are at least at a level 7 or higher as all the pieces are Late Intermediate to Early Advanced. The first piece is called: 1) Untitled Composition, Op. posth: The untitled composition is often given the name prelude. Full of dark harmonies and expressive melodic material, it embodies a typical Russian expression of pain and anguish. 2) Morceau de fantasia: Technical study for the right hand. 3) Flight of the Bumble Bee (Transcription of Rimsky Korsakov): One of the most famous transcriptions for the piano. This ingenious transcription contains a busy whirl of rapid scales portraying a bee buzzing. 4) Elegie Op. 3 No. 1: My favorite Rachmaninoff song. Elegie contains the dark, brooding intensity he became famous for. Lush harmonies and long soaring lines with sweeping arpeggios. 5) Prelude, Op. 3 No. 2 (Bells of Moscow): Undisputed Rachmaninoff's most famous single piano work. 6) Polichinelle, Op. 3 No. 4: The title translates as Punch. The piece contains extremely wide ranges of dynamics, which help convey the boisterous quality of the writing. 7) Nocturne Op. 10 No. 1: Nocturne has a number of resemblances to the nocturnes of Chopin. One example is the similar left hand pattern in Chopin's Nocturne Op. 55 No. 1, containing long phrase lines set against the harmonies. This piece is a great introduction to Rach's wonderful treatment of melody. 8) Humoresque Op. 10 No. 5 (second edition): Is more sophisticated than the first and contains touches of harmonic color that gives the piece more originality. The title means a humorous or whimsical mood. 9) Romance Op. 10 No. 6: Is very similar to the Nocturne above. Much of the writing is in legato (four or five note harmony). 10) Moment Musical Op. 16 No. 5: Rach wrote six moment musicals, this being the most beautiful of the set. It is in Adagio, which gives it a tender and sensuous quality. I must add that I think it is wonderful that the Alfred Edition is coming out with these book sets with the full length cd included. Listening to a good interpretation is very helpful when learning and practicing a new piece of music.

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