



THE RACHMANINOFF SOCIETY

Charity registered in the UK No.1114932

www.rachmaninoff.org

WORLD EXCLUSIVE: SEARCHABLE DIARY OF PERFORMANCES BY RACHMANINOFF UNVEILED

The Rachmaninoff Society has unveiled a diary of all known performances and recordings by Sergei Vasilyevich Rachmaninoff – as composer, pianist and conductor. This database is now available and searchable via the Society's website, <http://www.rachmaninoff.org>.

The Performance Diary is an ongoing project, compiled by Australian scholar and pianist Scott Davie.

"This is the result of over a decade of research", explains Davie, who also lectures in Russian Music History at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music.

"I have drawn on and cross-checked material from a wide variety of sources, including the important research of musicologist Zarui Apetian published in Russia in 1980. I have also cross-checked material against publications by Bertensson and Leyda, Robert Threlfall, Geoffrey Norris, and Barrie Martyn, among others. I was later able to cross-check the data with original materials at the Glinka Museum of Musical Culture in Moscow, uncovering numerous concerts that had not previously been documented, along with occasional anomalies. In addition, I have had access to materials collected by Rachmaninoff's sister-in-law, Sophia Satina, and housed in the Library of Congress. Sophia Satina endeavoured to collect as many programs as possible, hoping to create a record perhaps similar to the present Performance Diary. Her research included many of Rachmaninoff's original contracts, and letters to and from both concert halls and newspapers."

The Performance Diary gives an unparalleled insight into the intensity of Rachmaninoff's performing career, and its geographical reach, at a time when travelling was far less easy and speedy than it is now.

It also shows an evolution in Rachmaninoff's choice of repertoire. Scott Davie notes that a feature of the historical research so far is a lack of detail concerning the exact repertoire played by Rachmaninoff in his recitals. It seems clear from available programs that he varied the selection of works played while on tour, drawing from his yearly repertoire. In Rachmaninoff's earlier seasons, the majority of recital works are his own, while later recitals contain more works by other composers.

"The Performance Diary is a fantastic achievement, and the Rachmaninoff Society is very grateful to Scott Davie for his dedication and commitment to making it available to the wider public, and to Greg Lile who digitised it," said Society Chairman John Lockyer. "It makes an outstanding contribution to the Society's aims of increasing the available knowledge on Rachmaninoff."

It is likely that some concerts given by Rachmaninoff have not yet been listed, such as from the aborted tour with violinist Terasina Tua. Given Sophia Satina's desire to create a complete and permanent record of her brother-in-law's concert career, the Rachmaninoff Society hopes that the current Performance Diary will grow to become a truly complete record, for example through the inclusion of concert programs, which will add further valuable detail, and benefit all who are interested in studying Rachmaninoff's life. The Rachmaninoff Society is therefore calling on readers who may hold concert programs from Rachmaninoff's long and busy career, or newspaper reviews of his concerts, to send copies for inclusion on its website.

Notes

1. Scott Davie is known to audiences as both a soloist and chamber musician. He has given concerts throughout Australia, and his performances and recordings have been broadcast on radio and television. The recipient of numerous awards and prizes, he furthered his studies in London, where his teachers included pianists Geoffrey Parsons and Leslie Howard.

Scott's study of the music of Sergei Rachmaninoff and his academic research have resulted in performances of the composer's works in Europe, where he has also given lectures and interviews. In 2012, Scott will give the Australian première of the original version (1926) of Rachmaninoff's Fourth Piano Concerto with Vladimir Ashkenazy and the Sydney Symphony.

His first solo CD, *Lilacs*, was released by ABC Classics in 2002. A CD of the music from *Grand* was released on the Melba label in 2005, and *Pictures from an Exhibition*, featuring the First Piano Sonata of Rachmaninoff and a short piano piece newly discovered in the archives of the Library of Congress, Washington D.C., was released by ABC Classics in 2006.

For over a decade, Scott has developed a focus on Russian music, and has visited that country for research a number of times. He currently lectures in Russian music history at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, where he also teaches piano, and holds a Ph.D in Musicology.

2. The Rachmaninoff Society (Charity registered in the UK No. 1114932) was founded in 1990 to bring into contact all those who appreciate the Russian composer, pianist and conductor Sergei Vasilyevich Rachmaninoff (1873-1943) and to further the study of his life and music.

Over the last decade, the Rachmaninoff Society has been active worldwide, assisting in the organisation of numerous conferences and concerts, as well as the preparation of radio programmes. It has also stimulated the publication of various unknown scores and the making of recordings.

3. As an on-going element of this project, the Rachmaninoff Society is seeking to upload photographs of concert programs. If you have the program of a concert given by Rachmaninoff or a newspaper review, and would like an image of it to appear on the website, please contact us via diary@rachmaninoff.org.