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Prelude in C# minor

Morceaux de Fantaisie, Opus 3 No. 2

Sergei Rachmaninoff

Up to and including measure 13 the
Right Hand Notes are played *8va bassa*.

The right hand is shown there an octave
higher than played to clearly show which
notes belong to each hand.
Stems are bent to indicate thumb crossing.

Lento *RH 8vb*

ff

ppp

mf

HALF PEDAL

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Musical score for the first system, measures 22-25. The score consists of 12 staves. The first staff is marked with a 'Y' and contains a treble clef. The music features complex rhythmic patterns with many triplets and sixteenth notes. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5. A large slur covers the first six staves. Measure numbers 22, 23, 24, and 25 are clearly visible.

Musical score for the second system, measures 28-31. The score consists of 12 staves. The first staff is marked with a 'Y' and contains a treble clef. The music continues with complex rhythmic patterns, including triplets and sixteenth notes. A large slur covers the first six staves. Measure numbers 28, 29, 30, and 31 are clearly visible. A dynamic marking of *ff* (fortissimo) is present in the first staff of this system.

34

35

36

37

38

39

fff

40

41

42

43

sfff

vff

sfff
ff
pesante
fff
sfff
sffff
 46
 49

HALF PEDAL
mf
 52

Sergei Rachmaninoff's Prelude in C-sharp minor, Op. 3, No. 2, is one of the composer's most famous compositions. Part of a set of five piano pieces titled *Morceaux de fantaisie*, it is a 62-bar prelude in ternary (ABA) form. It is also known as *The Bells of Moscow* since the introduction seems to reproduce the Kremlin's most solemn carillon chimes.

In the standard music notation the massive theme occupies four staves in the second A section. The top two staves are both played by the right hand, the bottom two by the left.

Its first performance was by the composer on 26 September 1892, at a festival called the Moscow Electrical Exhibition. After this première, a review of the concert singled out the Prelude, noting that it had "aroused enthusiasm". From this point on, its popularity grew.

Rachmaninoff later published 23 more preludes to complete a set of 24 preludes covering all the major and minor keys, in a time-honoured tradition by composers such as Chopin, Alkan, Scriabin and others.

This work was one of the first the 19 year old Rachmaninoff composed as a "Free Artist", after he graduated from the Moscow Conservatory on 29 May 1892. He performed this new work for the first time at one of the concerts of the Moscow Electrical Exhibition on 26 September 1892. It was printed the following year as the second of five *Morceaux de fantaisie* (Op. 3), all dedicated to Anton Arensky, his harmony teacher at the Conservatory. Because at the time Russia was not party to the 1886 Berne Convention, Russian publishers did not pay royalties, so the only financial return he ever received for this piece was a 40 ruble (about two months' wage of a factory worker) publishing fee.

Source: Wikipedia