

S.Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)

Vocalise,
Op 34 No 14,

arranged in D Minor
for 6-part Cello Orchestra

Vocalise was the last of the 14 songs for voice and piano written by Rachmaninoff as his Opus 34 in 1912. The original is for wordless voice (soprano or tenor) and piano, but Rachmaninoff himself transcribed a version for voice and orchestra in the key of C Sharp Minor. The present arrangement for 6-part Cello Orchestra uses this score, but transposes it up a semitone into D Minor to suit cello tuning.

The original vocal line has been shared democratically among the 6 cello parts (divided into three pairs - ie Cellos 1+2; Cellos 3+4 and Cellos 5+6) rather than being given to a soloist. However there is a short Cello Solo from bar 62 which should be played by the principal Cello 1, accompanied by a countermelody played by all Cellos 2 (or a solo Cello 2, if preferred). The solo part could also be muted if desired, and mutes could also be used elsewhere in the arrangement, depending on the wishes of the performers and the prevailing acoustics.

It is important that the cello ensemble allows the melody to be heard, which is technically more difficult to achieve in an all-cello ensemble, than it would be when a high voice is accompanied by a conventional orchestra. The melody begins in the tenor register in Bar 1, but the first part of the repeat of the melody (from Bar 19) and the Solo (from Bar 62) is in the soprano register. It should also be noted that the orchestral arrangement by Rachmaninoff's is also full of exquisite small quaver/semi-quaver motifs and other melodic/harmonic fragments which should be brought out as appropriate in the present arrangement in addition to the almost continuous melody line.

This arrangement was made for James Halsey (director and conductor) and members of the Giant Cello Ensemble to perform at the annual Aboyne Cello Festival (in Aberdeenshire, Scotland).

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Very slow, molto cantabile

Vocalise

S.Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)

arr by Gwyn Seymour

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Score for Cello 1 through Cello 6. The music is in 12/4 time, with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The tempo is marked "Very slow, molto cantabile".

Cello 1 and Cello 2 play a melodic line starting with a *p* (piano) dynamic. Cello 3, 4, and 5 play a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes, marked *pp* (pianissimo). Cello 6 plays a single note, marked *p espress.* (piano, expressive).

A

poco piu animato

Score for Violoncello 1 through Violoncello 6. The music is in 12/4 time, with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The tempo is marked "poco piu animato".

Violoncello 1 and Violoncello 2 play a melodic line starting with a *p* (piano) dynamic. Violoncello 3 and Violoncello 4 play a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes, marked *mf* (mezzo-forte). Violoncello 5 and Violoncello 6 play a single note, marked *mp* (mezzo-piano).

Violoncello 3 and Violoncello 4 are marked "Soli (with V c3)" and "Soli (with V c4)". Violoncello 5 is marked "div." (divisi) and Violoncello 6 is marked "unis" (unison).

9 *div.*

Vc1 *mp*

Vc2 *mp*

Vc3 *f*

Vc4 *f*

Vc5 *mf*

Vc6 *mf*

12 **B** *pp sotto voce* *unis.*

Vc1 *mf (lower part)* *pp sotto voce*

Vc2 *p*

Vc3 *mf* *pp subito* *sotto voce*

Vc4 *mf* *div.* *pp subito* *sotto voce*

Vc5 *p* *mp* *f* *mf*

Vc6 *p* *mp* *f* *mf*

Soli (with Vc6)

Soli (with Vc5)

D

23

Vc1

Vc2

Vc3

Vc4

Vc5

Vc6

div.

unis

p

mf

mp

Soli (with Vc4)

Soli (with Vc3)

unis

mp

27

Vc1

Vc2

Vc3

Vc4

Vc5

Vc6

mp

mp

f

f

mf

mf

30

pp sotto voce

mf

pp sotto voce

un.

un.

mf

pp subito

div.

pp subito

Soli (with V c6)

p

mp

f

mf

p

mp

f

mf

33

p

pp

pp

un.

f

f

p

p

p

p

36 **F**

pp *div.* *pp sotto voce*

Vc1 *pp* *div.*

Vc2 *pp* *p* *pp*

Vc3 *pp* *pizz.* *arco* *div.*

Vc4 *pp* *p* *mf* *f*

Vc5 *pp* *mf* *f*

Vc6 *pp* *mf* *f*

Soli (with Vc6)

Soli (with Vc5)

40 **G**

Vc1 *p* *mf*

Vc2 *mp* *mf*

Vc3 *mp* *mf* *f*

Vc4 *mp* *mf* *f*

Vc5 *p* *mf*

Vc6 *p* *mf*

unis *Soli (with Vc4)* *mf* *f*

div. *mf*

div. *mf*

44 **H**

Soli (with Vc2)

unis

mf

ff

Soli (with Vc1)

mf

ff

mf

ff

div.

mf

ff

div.

mf

ff

unis

mf

ff

Vc1

Vc2

Vc3

Vc4

Vc5

Vc6

47 **I**

sotto voce

poco piu mosso

div.

p

pp

ppp

sotto voce

ppp

div.

pizz.

arco div.

ppp

p

pp

ppp

Soli (with Vc6)

p

Soli (with Vc5)

p

pp

pp

pp

Vc1

Vc2

Vc3

Vc4

Vc5

Vc6

51

Vc1

div.

pp

Vc2

ppp

p

Vc3

unis

Soli (with Vc4)

Vc4

mp

mf

pp

mp

Soli (with Vc3)

Vc5

mf

pp

div.

Vc6

mf

pp

div.

J

55

Vc1

mp

mf

ff

Vc2

mp

mf

ff

Vc3

mf

mf

ff

Vc4

mf

div.

mf

ff

Vc5

mf

div.

mf

ff

Vc6

mp

mf

ff

unis

K

65 *p*

Vc1

Vc2

Vc3

Vc4 *sempre ppp*

Vc5 *sempre ppp*

Vc6 *sempre ppp*

tr

68 **M** rit ad lib Tutti e unis rit.

Vc1 *mf* *p* *pp*

Vc2 *mf* *p* *pp*

Vc3 *mf* *p* *ppp*

Vc4 *mf* *p* *ppp*

Vc5 *mf* *p* *pp*

Vc6 *mf* *p* *pp*

Sul D