

Sergei Rachmaninoff, Russian-born composer, conductor and piano virtuoso, remains among the most accomplished of 20th-century performers. He left his homeland during the Russian revolution of 1917, briefly living in France and Switzerland before eventually settling in the United States. In the summer of 1934, while in his Swiss villa, Rachmaninoff composed his *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini* for piano and orchestra.

Rhapsody

on a Theme of Paganini

Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873–1943)
Arr. Sharon Aaronson

Andante cantabile

The first system of the musical score is in 4/4 time. The tempo is marked *Andante cantabile* and the dynamics are *mf* *espressivo*. The right hand (treble clef) begins with a melodic line starting on G4, moving up stepwise to B4, then down to A4, G4, F4, E4, and D4. The left hand (bass clef) provides a harmonic accompaniment with a sequence of notes: G3, B2, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4, D4, E4, F4, G4. Fingering numbers are provided for both hands: the right hand uses 5, 5, and 5 for the first three measures, and the left hand uses 5, 2, 1, 5 and 5, 2, 1, 5 for the first two measures.

The second system continues the piece. The right hand has a melodic line with notes G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4. The left hand accompaniment includes notes G3, B2, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4, D4, E4, F4, G4. Fingering numbers are 5, 1 2 1 in the right hand and 5, 2 1 2, 2 in the left hand.

The third system includes the instruction *accel.* (accelerando). The right hand has a melodic line with notes G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4. The left hand accompaniment includes notes G3, B2, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4, D4, E4, F4, G4. Fingering numbers are 2 1, 1 2 1, 2 1 in the right hand and 5 2 1, 5 1, 5 2 1 4, 5 1 in the left hand.

9

f *ff* *mp* *mf dolce* *a tempo* *rit.* LH 1 RH

12

ff LH 1 RH

15

f *accel.*

18

f LH 1 RH