

*A Kalmus Classic Edition*

Alexander

# **GRETCHANINOFF**

## **FIVE LITTLE PIECES**

Opus 3

FOR PIANO

K 02139







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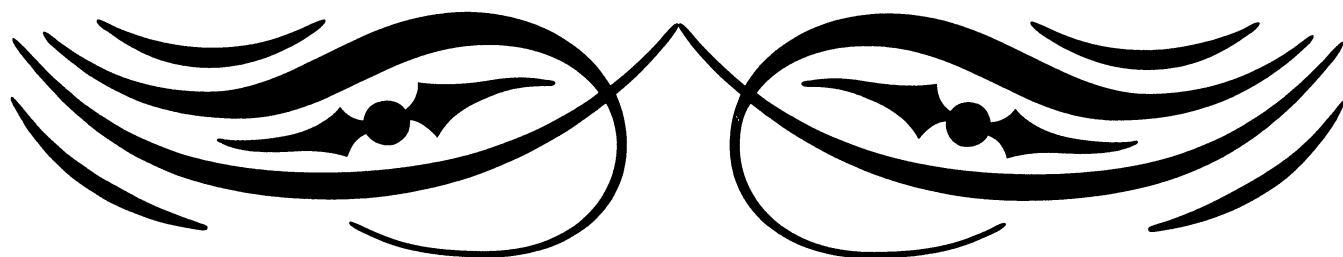
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# **ALEXANDER GRETCHANINOFF**

(1864-1956)

Russian composer, Alexander Gretchaninoff was born in Moscow where he began his study of piano at the age of 14. He left school at 17 to go to Moscow Conservatory where he studied with such notables as Arensky, Gubert, Kashkin, Larosh and Safonoff. Here he studied piano, counterpoint and theory, and soon became familiar with operas, orchestral and chamber music. In 1893 he left the Moscow Conservatory and moved his studies to the St. Petersburg Conservatory with Rimsky-Korsakov. Soon after this his compositions began to win acclaim and performance. Rimsky-Korsakov even conducted Gretchaninoff's First Symphony.

Gretchaninoff taught piano in St. Petersburg and Moscow, and became very involved with Moscow University, the Berkman Music School and the Gnesin Institute, where he taught. He made an attempt at composing opera, but had only one success. He was better known for his piano and orchestral compositions as well as a number of songs. It is said he was highly influenced by the music of Tchaikowsky, Borodin and Rimsky-Korsakov.

Following the Revolution, Gretchaninoff left his home country and traveled through Europe, finally settling for a while in Paris where he continued to compose and perform as a pianist. In 1929 he made his first of several visits to America, and made New York his permanent home in 1930.

# FIVE LITTLE PIECES

## I. Plainte

Alexander Gretchaninoff

Andantino (♩ = 69)

*p*

*poco rit.*

*mf a tempo*

*cresc.* *f* *pp*

The musical score is written for piano in 3/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It consists of four systems of music. The first system begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic and a tempo marking of Andantino (♩ = 69). The melody in the right hand is characterized by long, sweeping lines, while the left hand provides a steady accompaniment of chords. The second system includes a *poco rit.* (slightly ritardando) marking. The third system is marked *mf a tempo* (mezzo-forte at tempo). The fourth system features dynamic markings of *cresc.* (crescendo), *f* (forte), and *pp* (pianissimo), indicating a range of emotional intensity. The score concludes with a final chord in the right hand.