

**Rachmaninov *All-Night Vigil*  
Britten *Cello Suites***

Devised by Richard Wilberforce

Rachmaninov's *All-Night Vigil* is undoubtedly a vocal masterpiece of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, with its deep religiosity and achingly beautiful movements, all underpinned by a constantly inventive choral virtuosity. Britten's *Cello Suites* are dedicated to the composer's great friend Rostropovich, and were inspired by a performance Slava gave of Bach's namesake works. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Suite takes centre stage in this programme, with its sequence of Russian folksongs and variations, culminating in the Russian Hymn for the Departed, the *Kontakion*. Along with two lyrical movements from the 1<sup>st</sup> Suite, they are here to enhance the theme, to vary the textures, and to provide respite to the singers.

1. Come, Let Us Worship	2'
2. Bless the Lord, O My Soul	6'
Suite No. 3	6'
I. Introduzione: Lento – II. Marcia: Allegro – III. Canto: Con Moto	
11. My Soul Magnifies the Lord	9'
Suite No. 3	6'
IV. Barcarola: Lento – V. Dialogo: Allegretto –VI. Fuga: Andante espressivo	
5. Lord, Now Lettest Thou thy servant	3'
Suite No. 3	3'
VII. Recitativo: Fantastico – VIII. Moto perpetuo: Presto	
9. Blessed Art Thou, O Lord	6'
*****	(41)
8. Praise the Name of the Lord	2'
Suite No. 1	4'
Canto Secondo: Sostenuto – Canto Primo: Sostenuto e largamente	
10. Having Beheld the Resurrection of Christ	3'
6. Rejoice, O Virgin	3'
Suite No. 1	3'
III Serenata: Allegretto (pizzicato)	
3. Blessed Is the Man	6'
Suite No. 3	8'
Passacaglia: Lento solenne	
7. The Six Psalms	3'
4. Gladsome Light	3'
15. To Thee, the Victorious Leader	2'
	(35)