Alexander Nikolaevich Skrjabin, Russian pianist and composer, was a rarity — a musical mystic. Influenced by the writings of Fichte, Nietzsche, Schopenhauer, by Russian Symbolism, and the theosophy of Madame Helena Blavatsky, he developed his own ecstatic conception, believing that creation is the emanation of a Divine Principle and placing himself as a Promethean player in the drama that would change the destiny of the human race.

Born in Moscow on Christmas Day, December 25, 1871 (Julian calendar) and dying prematurely on Easter, April 14, 1915, Skrjabin assigned himself the role of Messiah. In fact, he elaborated a theory that foretold the end of the world through a colossal cataclysm after the performance of his
messianic work, “Mysterium,” an event that would purify humankind and give birth to a joyful superhuman race, free of disease and struggle. Skrjabin, like many Russian composers of the last part of the 19th century (Liadov, Glazunov, Cui, and others), fell under the sway of Chopin. As soon as 1897, though, Skrjabin diverged from his early style in the first sonata in F minor Opus 6 and later the twenty-four Preludes, Opus 11. Although he composed five symphonies, Skrjabin dedicated himself mainly to writing piano works, including the short forms favored by Chopin. However, it is his set of ten sonatas, written during a twenty-one-year span between 1892 and 1913 that represents the core of his musical output.

The ten sonatas can be divided into three compositional periods: sonatas 1-3 belong to the first period (late romantic); sonatas 4-5 belong to the transitional period (from late romantic style towards atonality); and sonatas 6-10 are clearly in Skrjabin’s late style, characterized by tonal instability and the use of musical symbols such as trills and intervals of the tritone, seventh, and ninth. However, the most important of his musical innovations was his famous “Mystic Chord” (based on the notes C-F#-Bb-E-A-D), not only because it was meant to represent the initial chaos of the universe, the origin of the whole, but also because through it Skrjabin conceived the revolutionary harmonic system of all of his late works.
ALEXANDER NIKOLAEVICH SKRJABIN: FROM ROMANTICISM TO THE MYSTIC CHORD, THE TEN PIANO SONATAS AND 24 PRELUDES, OPUS 11.

by


Dissertation Submitted to the Faculty of the Graduate School of the University of Maryland, College Park in partial fulfillment Of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Musical Arts 2007

Advisory Committee:

Professor Larissa Dedova, Chair
Professor Santiago Rodriguez
Professor Suzanne Beicken
Adjunct Professor Mikhail Volchok
Emeritus Professor Umberto Neri, Dean’s Representative
TABLE OF CONTENTS

1) A brief letter of explanation from you outlining the reasons for the submission of the thesis on CD.
2) A copy of the dissertation's Abstract Page
3) A copy of the dissertation's Title Page
4) A copy of the dissertation's Table of Contents
5) Three CDs with the Recordings of the Three Dissertation Recitals for the DMA in Piano Performance:

CD 1: Alexander Nikolaevich Skrjabin: from Romanticism to the Mystic Chord, the Ten Piano Sonatas and 24 Preludes, Opus 11.

Tracks 1-4: Sonata No. 1 in F minor
Track 5: Sonata No. 10 Op. 70
Tracks 6-29: 24 Preludes Op. 11

CD 2: Alexander Nikolaevich Skrjabin: from Romanticism to the Mystic Chord, the Ten Piano Sonatas and 24 Preludes, Opus 11.

Tracks 1-4: Sonata No. 3 Op. 23 in F-sharp minor
Track 5: Sonata No. 6 Op. 62
Track 6: Sonata No. 7 Op. 64
Tracks 7-8: Sonata No. 4 Op. 30 in F-sharp Major

CD 3: Alexander Nikolaevich Skrjabin: from Romanticism to the Mystic Chord, the Ten Piano Sonatas and 24 Preludes, Opus 11.

Track 1: Sonata No. 9 Op. 68
Track 2: Sonata No. 8 Op. 66
Tracks 3-4: Sonata No. 2 Op. 19 in G-sharp minor
Track 5: Sonata No. 5 Op. 53 in F-sharp Major

6) A copy of the Electronic Publication Form.
Proquest / University of Maryland Submission Agreement

By signing below, I agree to the following:

Through the University of Maryland Graduate School, I agree to supply the University of Maryland and ProQuest Information and Learning Company ("PQIL") my dissertation and an abstract of 350 words or less or my Masters thesis and an abstract of 150 words or less ("My Manuscript") along with the following information: personal and degree data, title and subject data and, if needed, written permission to use previously copyrighted materials within the body of the work including images, video, graphics, text, data and images of individuals and licenses for third party software which will be replicated, distributed and used with the document.

I hereby grant the University of Maryland, College Park, a non-exclusive, fully paid, irrevocable right and license to host, cache, route, transmit, archive, reproduce, distribute, perform, display, and reformat My Manuscript, in whole or in part, in and from an electronic format, as of the submission date stipulated in the submission of this document and approved by the University of Maryland.

I understand that the University of Maryland will submit My Manuscript to PQIL® Dissertations Publishing for inclusion in the publications Dissertation Abstracts International or Masters Abstracts International. I hereby grant PQIL a non-exclusive right to host, cache, route, transmit, archive, reproduce, distribute, perform, display, and reformat My Manuscript, in whole or in part, in any format whether in existence now or developed in the future, including but not limited to microfilm and any electronic formats. Other publication rights may be granted as I choose.

I represent and warrant that (a) My Manuscript is my original work; (b) any third party content included in My Manuscript is either in the public domain, constitutes a fair use under copyright law, or is included with the written permission from the owner of copyright in such third party content; (c) excluding third party content, I am the sole owner of My Manuscript and have the authority to grant these licenses, and (d) does not violate the copyright, privacy or publicity, or any other personal, proprietary or intellectual property rights of any third party and is free of scandalous, libelous, and/or unlawful matter. I agree to supply the University of Maryland with copies of the permissions I have obtained from third parties to use their copyrighted content and acknowledge that ProQuest and the University of Maryland have the right not to distribute My Manuscript if, in their reasonable judgment, either believes My Manuscript violates any of these representations and warranties.

I acknowledge that I retain copyright and ownership rights in My Manuscript and have the right to exercise any of my rights under copyright in My Manuscript, including for example, publishing a book and/or articles based on My Manuscript.

Subject to the preceding paragraphs, PQIL agrees to offer copies of My Manuscript and to publish an abstract of My Manuscript in Dissertation Abstracts International or Masters Abstracts International, as appropriate. In accordance with the Copyright Act of 1976, PQIL will deposit one copy of My Manuscript with the Library of Congress. This deposit will be in digital, microform, or other format as required by the Library of Congress and will be available for inspection. PQIL also agrees to pay me a royalty equal to ten percent (10%) on all income it receives from distribution of My Manuscript in any format provided that in order for me to receive a royalty payment in any calendar year, the royalty payment due me must exceed Ten Dollars ($10.00) and I must have advised PQIL of my current address.

[Signature]
Student Signature

[Date]
05/23/2007