

Prelude No. 2

Sergei Rachmaninov

The Prelude No 2 in C sharp minor is one of Rachmaninov's most popular solo piano compositions, written in 1892 when he was a student. It has commonly been nicknamed “The Bells of Moscow” for quite understandable reasons.

This arrangement sounding in Bb minor for 4-part brass cannot capture all the notes Rachmaninov included in his dense piano score (sometimes 4 staves at a time), but it can convey something of the dark mood and power of the piece. Tempo and dynamic markings are only a suggestion, and players should feel free to experiment with both.

It is scored for two trumpets (or cornets), baritone (or trombone) and tuba. The tuba part could be played on euphonium, but it really benefits from the depth of the tuba.

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