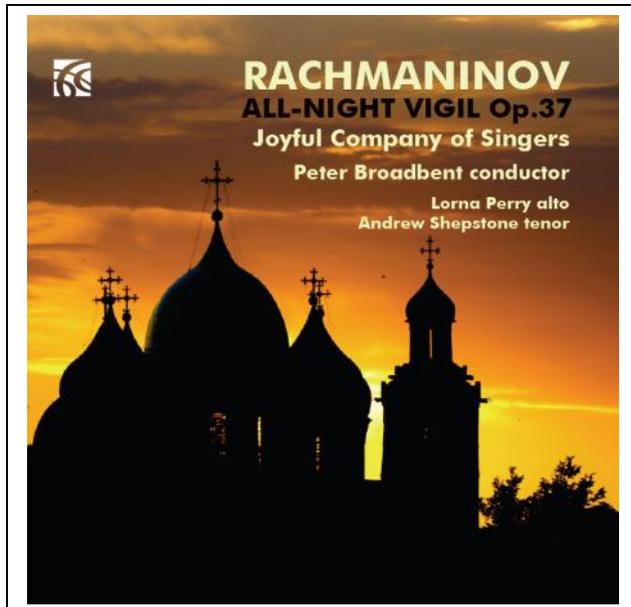


NEW CD/DOWNLOAD RELEASE INFORMATION FOR PRESS/MEDIA



Artist(s):	Joyful Company of Singers Peter Broadbent (cond)
Composer:	Rachmaninov
Repertoire:	All Night Vigil op. 37 (1915) O mother of God vigilantly praying (1893)
Catalogue No:	NI6250 [0710357625022]
Discs:	Single CD/Jewel Case
UK PPD:	£6.40 (upper mid price)
UK Release Date:	Available Now

Tracklisting

Rachmaninov: Vsenoschnoe bdenie, op. 37 All-Night Vigil (1915); V molitvakh neusypayushchuyu bogoroditsu O mother of God vigilantly praying (1893)

Featuring **Lorna Perry** (alto) and **Andrew Shepstone** (tenor)

Repertoire Information

Sergei Rachmaninov's sacred choral music has become some of the best known from amongst the extensive repertoire composed in Russia before its untimely curtailment with the advent of the Revolution in 1917. Rachmaninov's choral writing is technically both perfect and ambitious, linguistically rooted in tradition yet constantly seeking to renew it, and transcendent in its piercing beauty.

While "All-Night Vigil" is the correct translation of the title of Rachmaninov's great work, it should be pointed out that in fact it is an abbreviated setting, as is customary in Russian Orthodox churches and cathedrals, of the main musical parts of Vespers, which begins approximately at sunset, and of Matins and the First Hour of the following liturgical day. Rachmaninov's setting comprises fifteen sections, the first six being from Vespers, the following eight from Matins, and the final one from the First Hour. The composer avoided setting specific festal texts, so that the work may be used at any time during the liturgical year, and he set none of the responses for the many litanies that punctuate the services of the Byzantine rite.

Also included on this CD is a brief "sacred concerto" dating from 1890. It was first performed in 1893 by the Moscow Synodal Choir under Vasily Orlov, but was not published in the composer's lifetime, though it has subsequently attained a good deal of popularity.

The release of this recording is timely to coincide with the 21st Anniversary of the founding of The Joyful Company of Singers – please visit www.jcosuk.wordpress.com



Artist Information

The **Joyful Company of Singers** is One of Europe's leading chamber choirs, known for its virtuosity and intensity of spirit, as well as for an astoundingly wide repertoire, ranging from the sixteenth century to the present day, and particularly featuring contemporary a cappella works, including many first performances. Together with founder and conductor Peter Broadbent, the choir has won an impressive list of national and international competitions, and has a history of success in recordings, broadcasts and concerts. The choir makes regular appearances at all the main British festivals as well as festivals in Europe, Russia and the United States. Its discography runs to more than 20 CDs, and includes music by many British composers as well as Barber, Poulenc and Malcolm Williamson.

Peter Broadbent is one of Britain's most versatile choral conductors, known for his awareness of style, breadth of experience and commitment to contemporary music. In addition to his regular work with the JCS, he has conducted professional choirs and orchestras in the UK, France, Hungary and Ireland and in 2006 conducted the World Youth Choir in a European Tour. An adjudicator at International Choral Competitions all over Europe, he gives seminars and masterclasses at home and in mainland Europe, South Africa, South-East Asia, the United States and Canada He is Director of Training for the Association of British Choral Directors. Broadbent was presented with the "Pro Cultura Hungarica" award by the Hungarian Ministry of Culture for his services to Hungarian Music.

Lorna Pery was born in South Wales and graduated in Music and German from Southampton University. She sings with professional church choirs and several London Chamber choirs including the JCS, with whom she has sung solo parts in major concert halls and several UK and European Festivals. As an oratorio soloist her performances include many of the major vocal works including Elgar's *Dream of Gerontius* and *Sea Pictures* and works from Bach, Haydn and Mendelssohn to Constant Lambert and Karl Jenkins. Her operatic roles range from Purcell, Mozart and Rossini to Britten, Kurt Weill and Cecilia McDowall.

Andrew Shepstone began his singing career as a treble in the première of Britten's *War Requiem*. A Cambridge graduate and solicitor, he studied with Christopher Keyte and sings with several leading choirs as well as performing as a soloist. A founder member of the JCS he has also sung with the Monteverdi Choir under Sir John Eliot Gardiner. His recordings include the solos in Malcolm Williamson's *Requiem for a Tribe Brother* and several with St Albans Cathedral Choir, where he was a Lay Clerk for seven years. Recent solo appearances include Janacek's *Otcenas*, Strauss's *Deutsche Motette* and the baritone solos in both Fauré's and Durufle's Requiems

For more details, and to request a review sample and/or an interview request, please contact John Cronin at Music & Media Consulting Limited.