

Composer Profile: Sergei Rachmaninov

1 Sergei Vasilyevich Rachmaninov was born on 1 April 1873, in Starorussky Uyezd.

2 Rachmaninov died on 28 March 1943 in Beverly Hills, California.

3 Rachmaninov was a Russian composer, pianist, and conductor.

4 In 1918 Rachmaninov fled Russia with his family due to the Russian Revolution, eventually settling in New York.

5 Rachmaninov became a concert pianist out of financial necessity after fleeing Russia.

THE
FACTS



Notable pieces:

- Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini (1934)
- Symphonic Dances (1940)
- Vocalise (1912)
- Piano concerto no. 2 (1901)
- Piano concerto no. 3 (1909)
- The Bells (1913)
- Symphony no. 2 (1908)

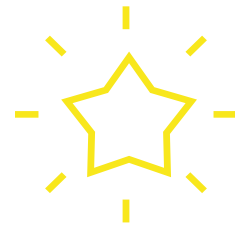


Rachmaninov was heavily influenced by Tchaikovsky.



Sergei Rachmaninov

Rachmaninov was known for his lyrical, romantic melodies.



The church bells and liturgical chants that Rachmaninov heard in his childhood are echoed in many of his works.



After moving to the United States, Rachmaninov's music was banned in Russia.

Rachmaninov had enormous hands and could stretch 13 keys on the piano.



After the failure of his first symphony, Rachmaninov became depressed and needed therapy. He was unable to compose for four years.

Stravinsky called Rachmaninov a "six and a half foot scowl" as he was very tall and rarely smiled.

Rachmaninov was able to play pieces he'd heard in the past with incredible accuracy.