

# Joyful Light

GRETCHANINOFF, Alexandre Tikhonovich (b. 13 [25] October, 1864, Moscow; d. 4 January, 1956, New York) — studied at the Moscow Conservatory (1881-1890) and the St. Petersburg Conservatory (1890-1893), which he completed in composition as a student of Rimsky-Korsakov. Collaborated with various choral ensembles, including Melnikov's Choir in St. Petersburg, the Moscow Synodal Choir and Vasilyev's Choir in Moscow, which premiered his numerous choral compositions. Also worked in the fields of theater music, children's music, and musical ethnography. Toured in Russia and abroad as a pianist, accompanist, and conductor. In 1925 emigrated to Paris, where he lived until 1939, when he moved to New York.

"Joyful Light," composed in 1901, is a freely composed setting of one of the most ancient of Christian hymns still in use today. It is sung at the vesperal portion of the All-Night Vigil, following the procession with the incense. As in many of his other settings of traditional liturgical texts, Gretchaninoff created a much more extended work that supersedes the scope of any previous settings.

Previous English adaptations of this piece attempted to devise a text that would fit neatly into Gretchaninoff's original Church-Slavonic setting; the present English adaptation, by contrast, employs an English translation that accurately renders the theological content of the ancient Greek liturgical text, closely mirroring versions currently used by English-speaking Orthodox churches. Gretchaninoff's original note values were therefore adjusted accordingly in order to accommodate the inflection and phrasing of the English.

—Vladimir Morosan

*Postscript:* According to a note in Gretchaninoff's autobiography, *My Life* (New York: 1952), the correct pronunciation of the composer's name puts the stress on the third syllable: Gret-cha-ní-noff.

Alexandre Gretchaninoff (1864–1956)

Opus 23, No. 2

English adaptation by Vladimir Morosan

**Andante molto sostenuto.**

Soprano  
Joy - ful Light of the ho - ly glo - ry of the

Alto  
Joy - ful Light of the ho - ly glo - ry of the

Tenor  
Joy - ful Light of the ho - ly glo - ry of the

Bass  
Joy - ful Light of the ho - ly glo - ry of the

Piano  
(for rehearsal only)

*cresc. poco a poco*

3

*mf*

Fa - ther Im - mor - tal, Heav - en - ly, Ho - ly, and

*mf*

Fa - ther Im - mor - tal, Heav - en - ly, Ho - ly, and

*mf*

Fa - ther Im - mor - tal, Heav - en - ly, Ho - ly, and

*mf*

Fa - ther Im - mor - tal, Heav - en - ly, Ho - ly, and

3

*cresc. poco a poco*

*mf*

6

*f*

Bless - ed, O Je - sus Christ! Now that

*f*

Bless - ed, O Je - sus Christ! Now that

*f*

Bless - ed, O Je - sus Christ! Now that

*f*

Bless - ed, O Je - sus Christ! Now that

6

*f*

9 *f* we have come to the set-ting of the sun and be - hold the light of

we have come to the set-ting of the sun and be - hold the light of

we have come to the set-ting of the sun and be - hold the light of

we have come to the set-ting of the sun and be - hold the light of

12 *p* eve - ning, *mf dolce* we praise the Fa - ther,

*p* we praise, *mf dolce* we praise the Fa - ther,

*p* we praise, *mf dolce* we praise the Fa - ther,

*p* eve - ning, we praise,

12 *p* *mf dolce*

15

*pp*

Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it, the

*pp*

Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it, the

*mf dolce*

we praise the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly

*mf dolce*

we praise the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly

15

*rit.*

Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it, we praise the

*p ff*

Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it, we praise the

*p ff*

Spir - it, the Ho - ly Spir - it, we praise the

*p ff*

Spir - it, the Ho - ly Spir - it, we praise the

18

*rit.*

*p ff*

a tempo, ma

*p ff*

a tempo, ma

21 *pochissimo più sostenuto* *rit.*

Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it: One God.

Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it: One God.

Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it: One God.

Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it: One God.

21 *pochissimo più sostenuto* *rit.*

26 *Molto misterioso.* *ppp* *poco a*

— Most wor - thy, —

— Most wor - thy, —

— Most wor - thy, — most wor - thy are You of most wor - thy are You of

— Most wor - thy, — most wor -

26 *Molto misterioso.* *ppp* *pp* *poco a*

32 *poco crescen - do ed ac - ce - le -*

*pp* most wor - - - thy, *pp* most

most wor - thy are You of praise at all times, most

praise at all times, most wor - - - thy, most

praise at all times, most wor - thy are You of praise at all times,

thy, most wor - - - thy, most

32 *poco crescen - do ed ac - ce - le -*

35 *ran - do*

*mf* wor - thy are You of praise at all times, most wor - thy are You of

wor - thy are You of praise at all times, most wor - - -

wor - thy are You of praise at all times, most wor - thy are You of

wor - - - thy, most wor - thy are You of

35 *ran - do*

Quasi allegro.

38 - - -

*ff*

praise at all times, wor - thy are You to be hymned with

*ff*

thy, wor - thy are You to be hymned with

*ff*

praise at all times, wor - thy are You to be hymned with

*ff*

praise at all times, wor - thy are You

Quasi allegro.

38

*ff*

Moderato assai.

41

*fff rit.*

rev - rent voic - es, to be hymned with rev - rent voic - es, Son of God and

*fff*

rev - rent voic - es, to be hymned with rev - rent voic - es, Giv -

*fff*

rev - rent voic - es, to be hymned with rev - rent voic - es, Son of God and

*fff*

to be hymned, to be hymned with rev - rent voic - es,

Moderato assai.

41

*fff rit.*

*p*

45 er of Life. *cresc. e molto rit.* **Tempo I.**  
*mf*  
 Giv - er of Life. There - fore the world ex - tols You,  
*mf dolce marcato*  
 er of Life. Son of God and  
*mf*  
 Giv - er of Life. There - fore the world ex - tols You,  
 Bass 1 *mf dolce marcato*  
 Son of God and  
 Bass 2, 3 *mf*  
 There - fore the world ex - tols

45 **Tempo I.**  
*cresc. e molto rit.* *mf*

48 *dolce marcato* *p*  
 there - fore the world ex - tols You,  
*p* *marcato*  
 Giv - er of Life, there - fore the world ex - tols You,  
 [ *p* ]  
 there - fore the world ex - tols You,  
*marcato* *p*  
 Giv - er of Life, there - fore the world ex - tols You,  
 You, the world ex - tols You,