

Sergei Prokofiev's Alexander Nevsky: Oxford Keynotes

Sergei Prokofiev's *Alexander Nevsky* is a powerful and evocative cantata that tells the story of the Russian prince who led the Novgorodians to victory over the Teutonic Knights in the Battle of the Ice in 1242. The work was commissioned by the Soviet government in 1938, and it quickly became a patriotic anthem that was widely performed throughout the USSR.

Alexander Nevsky is a complex and multifaceted work that draws on a variety of musical influences, including Russian folk music, Orthodox chant, and Western classical music. Prokofiev's masterful orchestration and use of leitmotifs create a rich and immersive sound world that transports the listener to the frozen battlefields of medieval Russia.



Sergei Prokofiev's Alexander Nevsky (Oxford Keynotes)

by Kevin Bartig

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 16554 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 173 pages
Lending : Enabled

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The cantata consists of seven movements, each of which depicts a different episode in the story of Alexander Nevsky. The first movement, "The Russian Land," opens with a majestic and sweeping melody that evokes the vastness of the Russian landscape. The second movement, "The Teutonic Knights," introduces the enemy forces, with a menacing and dissonant theme that reflects their arrogance and aggression.

The third movement, "The Battle on the Ice," is the centerpiece of the cantata. It is a brilliant and evocative depiction of the battle, with its clashing swords, the roar of the crowd, and the cries of the wounded. The fourth movement, "The Field of the Dead," is a lament for the fallen soldiers, with a haunting and elegiac melody that reflects the futility of war.

The fifth movement, "The Entry into Pskov," is a triumphant celebration of the Russian victory. It is a lively and spirited dance that reflects the joy and relief of the people of Pskov as they welcome their liberator. The sixth movement, "Alexander Nevsky's Farewell," is a reflective and nostalgic piece that reflects on the hero's life and legacy. The cantata concludes with a magnificent reprise of the opening movement, "The Russian Land," which serves as a reminder of the enduring strength and resilience of the Russian people.

Oxford Keynotes

In 2018, the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra performed *Alexander Nevsky* at the Sheldonian Theatre in Oxford, England. The performance was conducted by Marios Papadopoulos and featured the Oxford Philharmonic Chorus and the Oxford Bach Soloists.

The Oxford Keynotes are a series of lectures and discussions that are given by leading scholars and experts in the field of music. The Keynotes are designed to provide an in-depth exploration of a particular musical topic, and they are often given in conjunction with a performance of the work being discussed.

The Oxford Keynote on *Alexander Nevsky* was given by Dr. Marina Frolova-Walker, a leading authority on Prokofiev's music. Dr. Frolova-Walker's lecture explored the historical and cultural context of the cantata, its musical structure and orchestration, and its reception and legacy.

Dr. Frolova-Walker's lecture was a fascinating and informative exploration of one of Prokofiev's most important works. It provided the audience with a deeper understanding of the cantata's music, history, and meaning.

Sergei Prokofiev's *Alexander Nevsky* is a powerful and evocative work that tells the story of a Russian hero and the triumph of good over evil. The Oxford Keynotes on *Alexander Nevsky* provided an in-depth exploration of the cantata's music, history, and meaning. The Keynotes were a valuable addition to the performance of the work, and they helped to deepen the audience's understanding and appreciation of Prokofiev's masterpiece.



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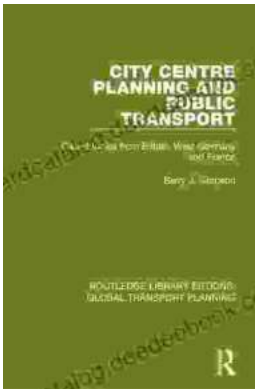
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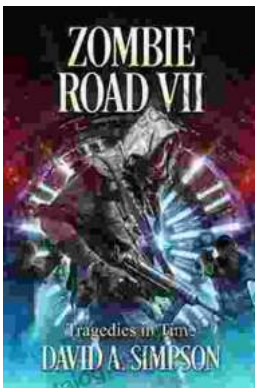
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