



A Statement of Solidarity

March 1, 2022

The entire Albany Pro Musica family stands in solidarity with the people of Ukraine and their fight against tyranny.

Rachmaninoff's "All-Night Vigil" was written in 1915 as the country was on the brink of revolution. The music is derived from the liturgy of the Russian Orthodox Church, which was brutally suppressed during the Russian Revolution and in the decades since. In recent years, Vladimir Putin has incorporated the Russian Orthodox Church in many of his speeches, but most experts agree that this lip-service is more about justifying his imperialist expansion efforts than any sincere religious beliefs. Rachmaninoff, who was quite religious, emigrated to the U.S., and died here in 1943 as a famous American citizen. His monumental work is, in many ways, a call for peace. We believe that Rachmaninoff had no use for the dictators who he felt despoiled his beloved country, then or now.

And so, Sunday's concert will be a celebration of the best of what Russia has given to the world – its sublime music, its creative and resilient people. It will also be a statement of solidarity with those who stand against the Russian government's atrocities, and a fervent plea for peace for the people of Ukraine. We hope you'll join us.