

## **ABSTRACT**

**CREATIVE PROJECT:** An Informed Performance Practice Guide for Rachmaninoff's Prelude in D-flat Major, Op.32, No.13

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This paper explores the practical and intellectual processes that I employed to achieve a successful performance of Sergei Rachmaninoff's Prelude in D-flat Major, Op.32, No.13. An overview of the Opus 32 Preludes' compositional chronology provided context for the unusually complex and demanding writing. By dissecting the score's textural, harmonic, and melodic components, my performance could best honor the composer's original intentions. I also utilized the performance practice advice of pianist and pedagogue, Josef Lhevinne. My exploration of the work's physical requirements facilitated a more meaningful execution of the challenging passagework. The Prelude's dramatic elements were further supplemented by an investigation of Rachmaninoff's possible inspirations, including a ubiquitous quotation of his early work and the nostalgic influence of his own memories.