Note on Transliteration and Dating

The transliteration system used in this book is based on that devised by Gerald Abraham for the *New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians* (1980), with modifications introduced by Richard Taruskin in *Musorgsky: Eight Essays and an Epilogue* (1993). The principal exceptions to this system concern commonly accepted spellings of names and places (most notably, Sergei Rachmaninoff rather than Sergey Rakhmaninov) and suffixes (-sky rather than -skiy). In bibliographic citations, however, the transliteration system is respected without exception (i.e. Sergey Rakhmaninov). Surname suffixes are presented intact, and hard and soft signs preserved.

Russia used the Julian calendar until 1 February 1918, when the Gregorian calendar was adopted. Both systems are used in this book—the Julian calendar for events pertaining to Rachmaninoff’s life in Russia before his emigration, and the Gregorian calendar thereafter (as well as during Rachmaninoff’s trips outside of Russia before 1918). Since the Gregorian calendar was in use in Europe and America long before 1918, Russians often double-dated their letters when traveling or communicating abroad, and this practice is respected here.