

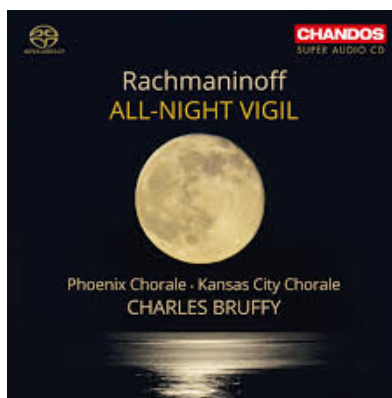
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**2 GRAMMY® Nominations for  
Phoenix Chorale and Kansas City Chorale  
recording of Rachmaninoff's *All-night Vigil*  
including  
"Best Engineered Album, Classical"  
and "Best Choral Performance"**



(Phoenix, Ariz.) The National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (NARAS) announced Monday that *Rachmaninoff: All-night Vigil* has been nominated for two GRAMMY® Awards including "Best Engineered Album, Classical" and "Best Choral Performance." Recorded by the Phoenix Chorale and Kansas City Chorale under the direction of Artistic Director Charles Bruffy, the recording was released by Chandos Records on the 100th anniversary of the world premiere of the work given by the Moscow Synodal Choir on March 10, 1915.

Fifty-six singers appeared on the recording, which followed live performances of the work by the combined ensembles in April and May 2014 in Phoenix and Kansas City. Engineered by

John Newton and Beyond Yoon Hwang, and mastered by Mark Donahue of Soundmirror, the recording has been nominated for the 2015 GRAMMY® Award for “Best Engineered Album, Classical.” *Rachmaninoff: All-night Vigil* was also produced by Soundmirror’s Blanton Alspaugh, who has been nominated for the 2015 GRAMMY® Award for “Producer of the Year, Classical.”

Since its March 2015 release, *Rachmaninoff: All-night Vigil* skyrocketed to popularity achieving multiple milestones including:

- **5 weeks on Billboard Charts**
- **First Play on iTunes** (one of 2 classical albums to ever be featured)
- **#1 debut on Billboard Traditional Classical Chart**
- **#3 debut on Billboard Classical Chart** (Includes crossover albums)
- **iTunes Editor's Choice**
- **#1** on three **Amazon** sales charts including Opera/Vocal, Chamber, & Classical
- **iTunes Main Room Feature** for 4 days (extremely rare for classical music)
- Featured on **American Public Media's *Performance Today***

*Rachmaninoff: All-night Vigil* received outstanding critical acclaim with *The Guardian* praising its "overwhelming devotional intensity... 5 Stars ★★★★★," *International Record Review* calling it "truly exceptional" and Classical MPR raved, "it's stunning."

The Phoenix Chorale and Kansas City Chorale are regarded as among the finest professional choral ensembles in the world. With this announcement, their recordings have earned a combined total of twelve GRAMMY® nominations and four wins.

"We are filled with gratitude for the overwhelming reception this recording has received, and to earn these nominations from The Academy is such an honor. It was pure delight to work with these incredible vocal artists, who embraced what may be considered Rachmaninoff's greatest work, truly giving their all to this piece, body and soul." - **Charles Bruffy, Artistic Director**

"From the earliest rehearsals we've known this would be a special Rachmaninoff *All-night Vigil*. Charles and the singers achieved a transcendent unity of text and music. Their commitment and devotion inspired us all. It's gratifying now to receive this recognition from our peers in the recording community." - **Blanton Alspaugh, Soundmirror**

Building on the success of their previous collaborations, the performances of Sergei Rachmaninoff's *All-Night Vigil* marked the seventh time that the two choirs have performed together. Of their 2009 performance at Alice Tully Hall in New York, Vivien Schewitezer of *The New York Times* wrote that the combined choirs "performed with a buoyant pulse and energetic finesse", and praised 'the choirs' refined sound and elegant phrasing."

The *Rachmaninoff: All-night Vigil* release received much fanfare with overwhelming press coverage and promotion including its worldwide listening party (#RACHParty) and premiere broadcast of the entire album on Classical Minnesota Public Radio's Choral Stream.

*Rachmaninoff: All-night Vigil* is distributed by Naxos of America, the #1 independent classical music distributor in the U.S. and Canada, specializing in state-of-the-art distribution, marketing and promotion. *Rachmaninoff's All-night Vigil* is available for purchase on iTunes and Amazon.

The 58th Annual GRAMMY awards will be held February 15, 2016, in Los Angeles at the Staples Center.

### Critical acclaim

"The eastern Orthodox vigil is the equivalent of western Christianity's matins and vespers, combining the two into a single service, usually held on a Saturday night, in which the congregation is asked to contemplate the light of the coming dawn as emblematic of Christ's resurrection. The US conductor Charles Bruffy and the Phoenix and Kansas City Chorales have long been outstanding interpreters of this repertory and their performance has a devotional intensity that is often overwhelming." - *The Guardian*, 5 Stars

"What a glorious piece this is and what a remarkable choir the combined Kansas City and Phoenix Chorales are. By no means the most idiomatic performance but one that re-imagines this extraordinary work as a series of extended meditations. All aided by choral singing of superhuman brilliance caught in typically gorgeous Chandos sound – soul music." – *Music Web International*, Nick Barnard

"*Rachmaninoff's All-night Vigil*, sometimes referred to as Vespers, is the 'crowning achievement of the 'Golden Age' of Russian Orthodox choral music.' However strict the composition, in this performance, the 75 minutes that it takes present rapturous music from the soul, divine in its import and casting a liturgical spell but also something beyond that: in purely musical terms there is something for believers and non-believers alike. The combined Chorales and Charles Bruffy present the sacred nature of this music while giving it an expressive and rapt glow that really takes it to the listener's senses. Chandos's recording is ideally spacious yet focussed, superbly capturing the dedicated and deeply responsive performance." Hi-Fi Critic, Colin Anderson

About Charles Bruffy: One of the most admired choral conductors in the United States, GRAMMY® Award winning conductor Charles Bruffy began his career as a tenor soloist, performing with the Robert Shaw Festival Singers. Robert Shaw encouraged his development as a conductor and in 1996 he was invited by National Public Radio to help celebrate Shaw's eightieth birthday with an on-air tribute. In 1999, The New York Times named him as the late, great conductor's potential heir. He has been Artistic Director of the Kansas City Chorale since 1988, of the Phoenix Chorale since 1999, and of the Kansas City Symphony Chorus since 2008. In 2009, he brought the Phoenix Chorale and Kansas City Chorale to Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center for their New York debut, The New York Times praising the choirs' 'refined sound and elegant phrasing... vivid intensity... [and] buoyant pulse and energetic finesse.' He conducts workshops and clinics across the US and abroad, serves on a number of advisory boards, and

served on the Chorus America Board for seven years. Respected and renowned for his fresh and passionate interpretations of standards of the choral repertoire and for championing new music, he has commissioned and premiered works by composers such as Jean Belmont, Ola Gjeilo, Matthew Harris, Libby Larsen, Zhou Long, Stephen Paulus, Stephen Sametz, Steven Stucky, Eric Whitacre, and Chen Yi. Under his supervision, the Roger Dean Company, a division of the Lorenz Corporation, publishes a choral series specializing in music for professional ensembles and sophisticated high school and college choirs. His eclectic discography includes eight recordings for Chandos Records. Five of these recordings have received a total of twelve GRAMMY nominations and two GRAMMY wins: 2007 GRAMMY for "Best Engineered Album, Classical" for *Grechaninov: Passion Week* featuring the Kansas City Chorale and Phoenix Chorale; the 2008 GRAMMY for "Best Small Ensemble Performance" for *Spotless Rose: Hymns to the Virgin Mary* featuring the Phoenix Chorale; and the 2012 GRAMMYS for "Best Engineered Album, Classical," and "Best Choral Performance."

About the Kansas City Chorale: Founded in 1981, the Kansas City Chorale is a professional vocal ensemble that enriches local, national, and international communities through its dedication to excellence in performing music from diverse historical periods. The Chorale has received an ASCAP Award for adventurous programming in addition to receiving multiple GRAMMY® nominations and several wins, most recently in 2012 for "Best Choral Performance" for *Life and Breath: Choral Works by René Clausen*. Under the artistic direction of Charles Bruffy since 1988, the Kansas City Chorale has recorded works for Chandos Records and Nimbus Records, and was the first North American choir signed to that label. [www.kcchorale.org](http://www.kcchorale.org)

About the Phoenix Chorale: The GRAMMY®-winning Phoenix Chorale, under the direction of Artistic Director Charles Bruffy, is regarded as one of the finest choral ensembles in North America. What began in 1958 as a small study group of singers became a fully professional choir in 1992 made up of Arizona residents: highly educated and trained singers, teachers and professionals. In 2004, the Phoenix Chorale became the first North American choir to record for the U.K.'s prestigious Chandos Records and since then, the Chorale's recordings have earned a total of ten GRAMMY nominations and two GRAMMY® wins. [www.phoenixchorale.org](http://www.phoenixchorale.org)

#### About Soundmirror

Founded in 1972 by John Newton, Soundmirror has grown to become the premier classical music recording and production company. Its orchestral, solo, opera, and chamber recordings have received over 80 GRAMMY nominations and awards as well as special commendations from prestigious publications. Soundmirror has recorded for every major classical record label including Albany, Angel, Analekta, BMG, Cambria, CBS, Chandos, Clarion, Decca, Deutsche Grammophon, ECM, EMI, Erato, Finlandia, Harmonia Mundi, Koch International, LSO Live, Marc Aural Edition, N2K, Naxos, New World, Nonesuch, PentaTone Classics, Philips, Phonogram, RCA Red Seal, Signum Classics, Sony Classical, Summit, Telarc, Teldec, Virgin Classics, Warner/Elektra as well as many artist in-house labels. It produces local and nationally syndicated radio and TV programs for many organizations and has the historical knowledge and technical expertise to help orchestras manage and preserve their existing content libraries. [www.soundmirror.com](http://www.soundmirror.com)

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