

SOKOLOV

Nikolai Alexandrovich
(1859-1922)

Sokolov was a pupil of Rimsky-Korsakov at the St. Petersburg Conservatoire from 1878 to 1885. He taught at the Imperial Chapel. From 1896 he taught at the St. Petersburg Conservatoire, where he was a professor from 1907 to the time of his death.

Belaieff published Sokolov's compositions, Ops. 1 to 44. (There are further numbered works, unpublished.) Sokolov was particularly prolific in the field of solo songs, of which Belaieff published seventy-eight, and in chamber music, for which he received awards. He also composed some choral and orchestral works, of which the most considerable were the ballet suite, 'The Wild Swans', Op.40 and incidental music to 'The Winter's Tale', Op.44. His works for piano solo are few and include a weighty set of variations on an original theme, Op.25, a variation for the composite work on a Russian folksong in the collection of N.I. Abramychiev, and a prelude (Bessel pl.no.3854).

According to Kurbanov, Sokolov was much in demand at Belaieff's 'Fridays' as a storyteller, 'with an amazing fantasy, recalling Edgar Allen Poe.'

The title page is of the Serenade, Op.3 (pl.no.48) for String Quintet, based on the motive, 'B-la-f', and dedicated to M.P. Belaieff. It was published in 1887. The blue wrapper is typical of those used before the standardised grey wrapper came into being.

