



Bisel Classics

Vasily
Sergeyevich
KALINNIKOV
ELÉGIE

**PIANO
SOLO**

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Preface

Born into a world of straightened circumstances the course of Russian composer Vasily (Sergeyevich) Kalinnikov's life was far from easy. His father, a police official had some musical talent and through the family connections with the church he was able to study at the seminary at Oryol which provided him at the age of fourteen with his first leadership role, directing the choir.

With aspirations to develop his musical abilities he left for Moscow in 1884 but unable to afford the fees and after only a few months, he was forced to withdraw from elementary classes at the Conservatoire. A new opportunity presented itself however, when he won a scholarship to study bassoon at the Philharmonic Society Music School, and though his situation never rose much higher than one of abject poverty, he was able to get by on earnings as a jobbing musician and copyist. Kalinnikov's years at the school were assisted in part also by his friend and teacher of theory and harmony, Semen Kruglikov and through Kruglikov the influence of Rimsky-Korsakov and Balakirev entered the orbit of Kalinnikov's evolving soundworld. Kruglikov continued to support Kalinnikov after he graduated from the school in 1892, and it was through the influence of Kruglikov and his friend Tchaikovsky that in 1893 Kalinnikov found a job as assistant conductor at the Moscow Italian Opera. His health alas, already broken from years of battling with the debilitating effects of consumption finally gave out within a year of his occupancy in this position, and he was forced to