

# Musorgsky and His Circle: A Russian Musical Revolution

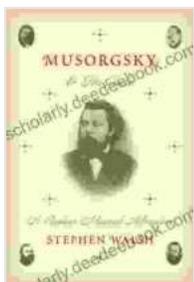


Modest Mussorgsky was a Russian composer who played a pivotal role in the development of Russian classical music. He was a member of the "Mighty Handful," a group of five composers who sought to create a new,

distinctly Russian style of music. Mussorgsky's music is known for its powerful emotionalism, its innovative use of harmony and melody, and its vivid depiction of Russian folk life.

## The Mighty Handful

The Mighty Handful was formed in 1862 by Mussorgsky, Alexander Borodin, Cesar Cui, Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov, and Mily Balakirev. The group's goal was to create a new Russian music that would be free from the influence of Western European music. They believed that Russian music should be based on Russian folk songs and rhythms, and that it should reflect the unique character of the Russian people.



### Musorgsky and His Circle: A Russian Musical

**Adventure** by Stephen Walsh

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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The Mighty Handful's music was often experimental and challenging, and it was not always well-received by the public. However, the group's members were passionate about their music, and they continued to compose and perform despite the lack of recognition.

## **Mussorgsky's Music**

Mussorgsky's music is some of the most powerful and moving in the Russian classical repertoire. His works include the operas "Boris Godunov" and "Khovanshchina," the orchestral suite "Pictures at an Exhibition," and the song cycle "Songs and Dances of Death."

Mussorgsky's music is characterized by its emotional intensity, its innovative use of harmony and melody, and its vivid depiction of Russian folk life. His operas are full of drama and passion, and his orchestral works are colorful and evocative.

Mussorgsky's music was not always appreciated by his contemporaries. His operas were often criticized for their lack of conventional form, and his orchestral works were considered to be too dissonant and experimental. However, Mussorgsky's music has since been recognized as some of the most important and influential in the history of Russian classical music.

## **Mussorgsky's Legacy**

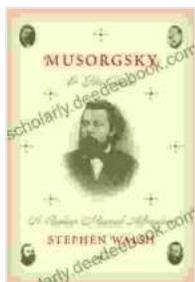
Mussorgsky died in 1881 at the age of 42. He was a relatively unknown composer at the time of his death, but his music has since been recognized as some of the most important and influential in the history of Russian classical music.

Mussorgsky's music has inspired generations of composers, including Igor Stravinsky, Sergei Prokofiev, and Dmitri Shostakovich. His operas and orchestral works are performed regularly around the world, and his songs are sung by some of the world's greatest singers.

Mussorgsky was a true pioneer of Russian classical music. His music is a powerful and moving expression of the Russian soul, and it continues to inspire and delight audiences around the world.

## Additional Information

\* Mussorgsky was born in Karevo, Russia, in 1839. \* He began studying piano at the age of seven. \* He attended the Saint Petersburg Conservatory, but he was expelled for missing classes. \* He worked as a civil servant for several years before he devoted himself to music full-time. \* He died in Saint Petersburg in 1881 from alcoholism. \* He is buried in the Tikhvin Cemetery in Saint Petersburg.



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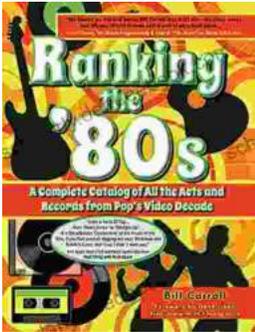
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