



The Glory of Russian Masterworks

Dr. Rachel Franklin

Thursday, January 9, 2025 - 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. ET

Tchaikovsky, Mussorgsky, Rimsky-Korsakov, Rachmaninoff, Prokofiev. Russia has provided us with some of the most exciting and original music in the repertoire today. Vibrant colors, explosive energy, and passionate emotional drive characterize the works of these composers. Yet this tradition seemed to spring from nowhere barely 150 years ago, expanding meteorically in breadth and national confidence over an amazingly short period. While exploring the riches of Russian concert works, popular speaker and concert pianist **Rachel Franklin** combines lecture and piano demonstrations to also trace the turbulent historical movements that acted both as backdrop and engine for this fascinating musical evolution.

British-born Franklin has been a featured speaker for organizations including the Library of Congress and heard on NPR, exploring intersections among classical and jazz music, film scores, and the fine arts.

JAN 9: Mikhail Glinka, sprung from ancient soil

Mikhail Glinka almost single-handedly laid the foundation for the Russian concert music tradition. We take a lightning survey of ancient Russian folk song and chant, exploring how he incorporated those styles into such important works as his delightful *Kamarinskaya*, and his opera *Ruslan and Lyudmila*. We'll also enjoy the *Piano concerto no. 4*. by Russian piano virtuoso Anton Rubinstein whose political activism laid the practical foundations for the mighty Russian musical institutions of today.

Works explored

Mili Balakirev (1837-1910)

Islamey, 1869

- Boris Berezovsky

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O5raMK4Z9co>

Piotr Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)

Eugene Onegin, 1879

- Anna Netrebko, Metropolitan Opera

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nm0zJt-UeB0>

Children's Pieces: Kamarinskaya

Northern Russian Folk Choir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-nwqSpBgOA>

Hail, Theotokos Virgin - Znamenny Chant

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i5NqK-b5S54>

Mikhail Glinka (1804-1857)

Kamarinskaya: Fantasy on Russian Folksongs, 1848

- Detroit S. O., Neeme Järvi

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sljZCuQrcgk>

A Life for the Tzar, (Ivan Susanin) Op. 4, 1836

Wedding Chorus, Act III

- Belgrade National Opera, Igor Markevitch

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P_AuogkSXbU

Finale

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vO6fRblZDqE>

Ruslan and Lyudmila, overture, 1842

- Boston Philharmonic, Ben Zander

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bMsu4b MG2U>

Ruslan and Lyudmila, dances, Act IV

- Kirov Opera

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GYrld3Q81rs&list=PLEGKOC7mvop-zPDBdpRd3SRN0fPktat W&index=14>

Anton Rubinstein (1829-1894)

Piano concerto no. 4 in D minor, Op. 70, 1864

- Age Juurikas, Estonian National S. O., Neeme Järvi

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g5 5n5jTqW0&t=33s>

Night, Op. 44, 1a

- Natania Davrath, Erik Werba

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T0U-rdI-n3A>