

Set 2. Alexander Porfirievich Borodin

<p>The Composer's Life</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Russian composer, prominent chemist (1833 – 1887) • <u>Born:</u> St. Petersburg; <u>died:</u> St. Petersburg • <u>Education:</u> excellent home education with private tutors; 1850 Medical-Surgical Academy in St. Petersburg; 1859 - 1861 Advanced scientific study in western Europe; 1862 taking lessons in compositions from Mily Balakirev • <u>Career:</u> a chemist; a military hospital surgeon; Professorship of Chemistry at the Imperial Medical-Surgical Academy in St. Petersburg (1862), made early contributions to organic chemistry; Music was his secondary vocation besides his main career as a chemist and physician, he composed in his free time. • Married a pianist Ekaterina Protopopova (1863) • Was a promoter of education in Russia, in 1872 established the School of Medicine for Women in St. Petersburg
<p>Essential Pieces</p>	<p>A Romantic composer was one of the prominent 19th-century Russian composers known as "The Five", a group dedicated to producing a uniquely Russian kind of classical music.</p> <p>Best known for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Symphonies • String Quartets • The symphonic poem <i>In the Steppes of Central Asia</i> • Opera: <i>Prince Igor</i> contains the <i>Polotsian Dances</i> (was completed posthumously, later was adapted into the musical <i>Kismet</i> in 1953) <p>He died suddenly leaving many of his works incomplete</p>
<p>Music Style</p>	<p>Borodin's Romantic music combines beautiful melodies, impressive harmonies in traditional Russian harmonic structures.</p> <p>His recognizable melodies demonstrate perfect technique in composition. Borodin based the thematic structure and instrumental texture of his pieces on strong lyricism and rich harmonies.</p> <p>Along with some influences from Western composers, as a member of The Five his music has also a Russian style. His passionate music and unusual harmonies proved to have a lasting influence on the younger French composers Debussy and Ravel (in homage, the latter composed during 1913 a piano piece entitled "À la manière de Borodine").</p>
<p>Cultural Recognition</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creative work of Borodin constitutes the pride of the Russian classical music. • It had a huge impact on many generations of Russian and foreign composers (including Glazunov, S. Prokofiev, K. Debussy, M. Ravel and others). • Borodin's fame outside the Russian Empire was made possible during his lifetime by famous musicians performing his music. • The evocative characteristics of Borodin's music—specifically <i>In the Steppes of Central Asia</i>, his Symphony No. 2, <i>Prince Igor</i>—made possible the adaptation of his compositions in the 1953 musical <i>Kismet</i>, by Robert Wright and George Forrest, notably in the songs "Stranger in Paradise", "And This Is My Beloved" and "Baubles, Bangles, & Beads". • In 1954, Borodin was posthumously awarded a Tony Award for the show <i>Kismet</i>, based on Borodin's music