

# Nikolai Andreyevich Rimsky-Korsakov



## **Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov (1844-1908)**

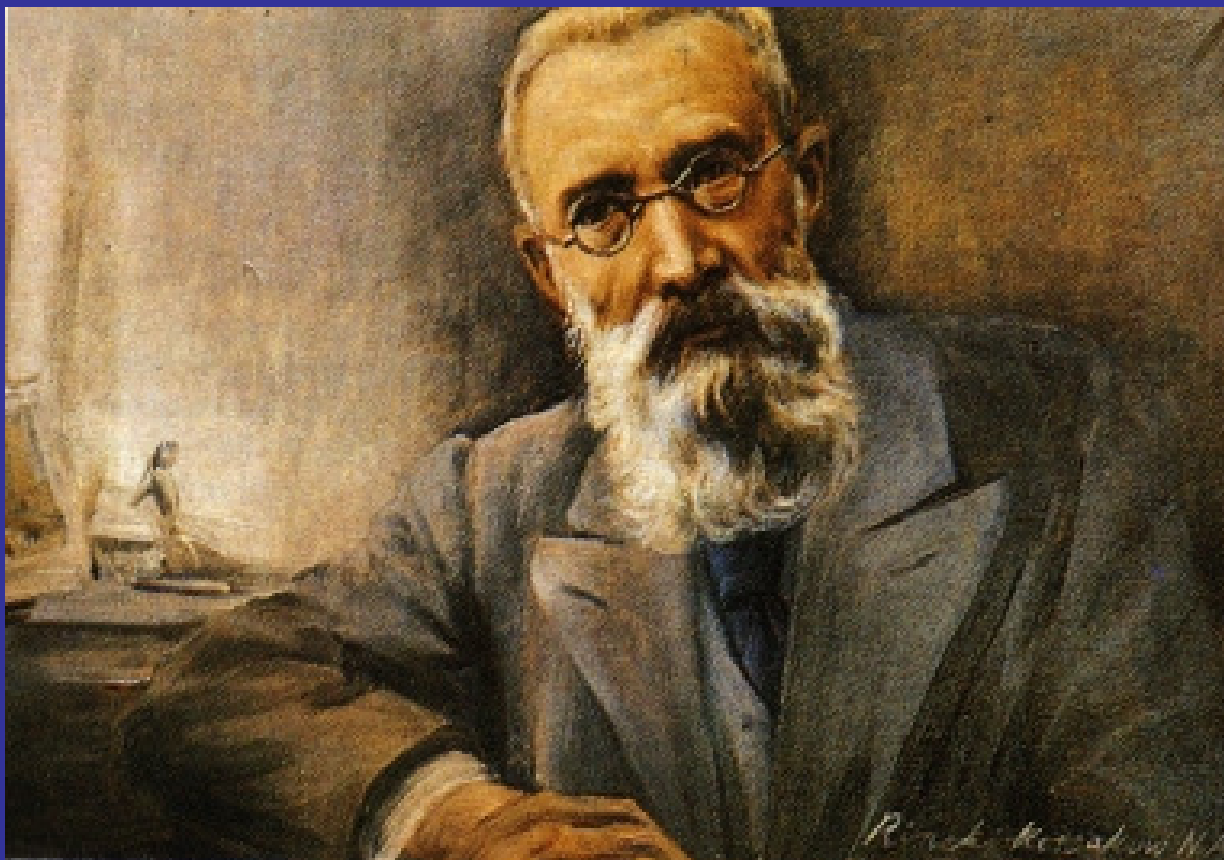
- ♪ **Born into minor aristocracy, he spent his early childhood in the country.**
- ♪ **He was playing piano aged 5**
- ♪ **He was allowed music lessons and was introduced to the works of Bach and Beethoven.**
- ♪ **These lessons were stopped by his elder brother, at 17 he was allowed to study composition with Kamille**

## Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov

- ♪ In 1861 he met Balakirev who encouraged him to write a Symphony. This was completed after a three year naval voyage (1862-65) and was successfully performed in 1865.
- ♪ His association with Balakirev and others led him to become one of '*The Mighty Handful*' or '*The Five*' (i.e. the five leading nationalist composers)

# Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov

♪ *Fantasy on Serbian Themes* (1867)

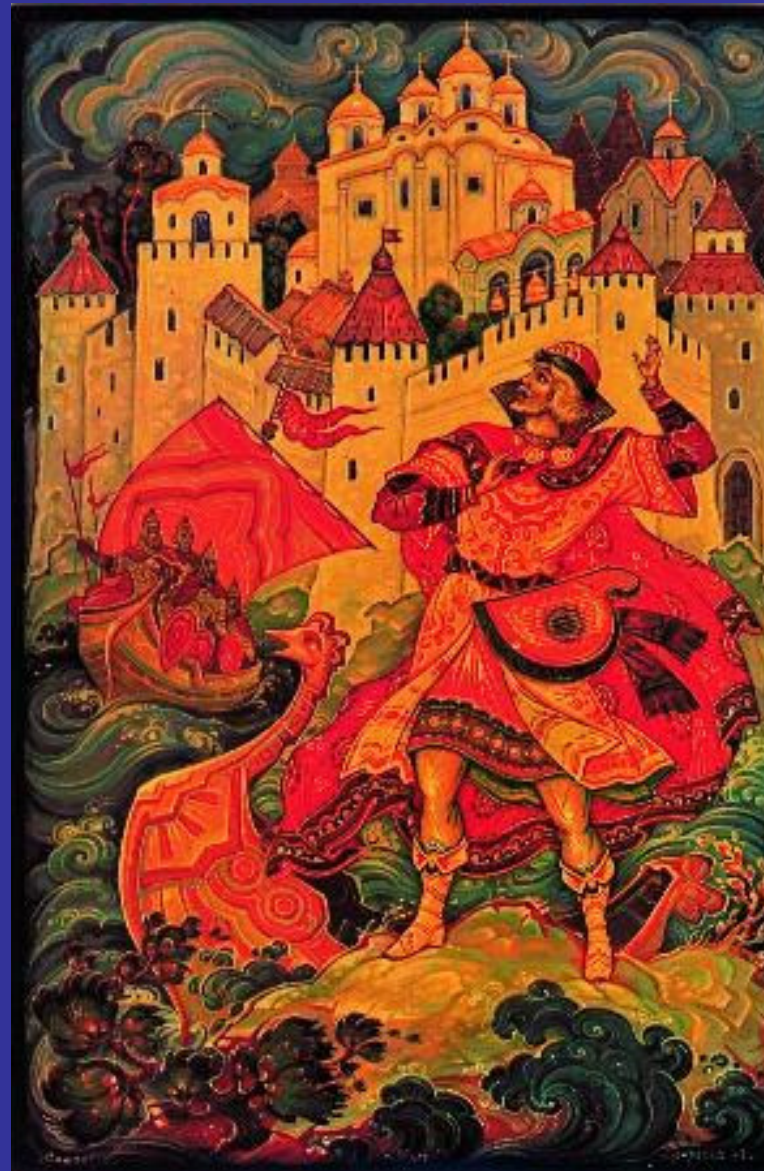


# Nicolay Rimsky-Korsakov

- ♪ In the late 1860s The 'five' had regular musical evenings. They searched for novel means of musical expression. e.g. Mussorgsky's naturalistic speed rhythms or Borodin's free use of diatonic dissonance.
- ♪ The collective style of which *Symphony No2* and *Sadko* are examples.

# Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov

♪ *Sadko* (1867)

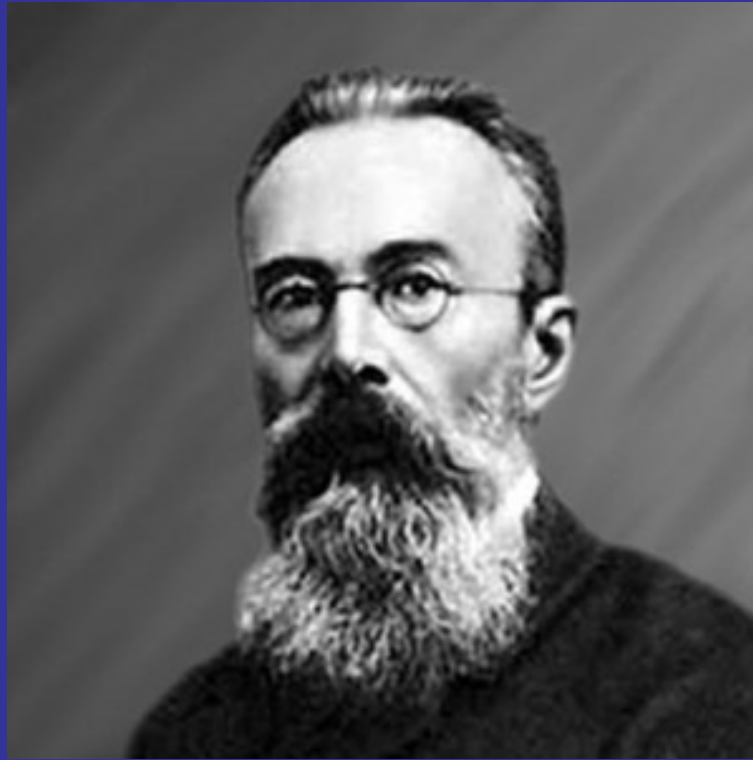


# Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov

- ♪ He composed his 1<sup>st</sup> opera in 1871
- ♪ Appointed music professor at St Petersburg Conservatory 1871-80.
- ♪ He married Nadyeshda Pugl'd 1872 and fathered 6 children.
- ♪ He honeymooned on the Italian Lakes and composed his 3<sup>rd</sup> Symphony

# Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov

♪ *Symphony No 3 (1873)*  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Movement: Scherzo*



# Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov

- ♪ Nadyeshda was to prove an excellent critic of his music.
- ♪ He developed a more refined attitude to composition and much of his later life was spent revising his early works in the light of his new theories.
- ♪ Notable among his students were Glazunov and Lyadov.

# Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov

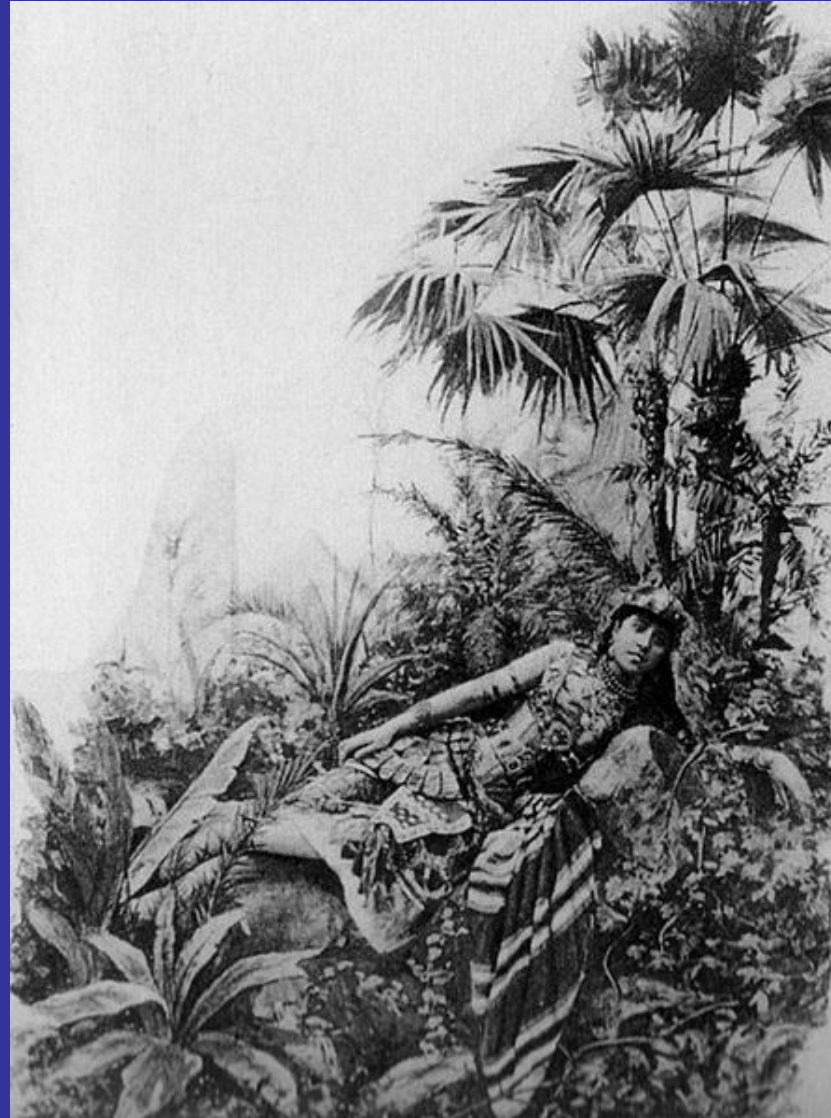
- ♪ Tchaikovsky felt that these new theories advocated restricted musical freedom in composition.
- ♪ He not only composed a wide range of music in his own right, but famously worked with Borodin on Prince Igor and re-orchestrated some of Glinka's works.

# Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov

- ♪ 1883 He was appointed deputy to Balakirev at court.
- ♪ During this period he had the opportunity to explore Russian sacred music.
- ♪ 1888-9 he wrote '*Mlada*' which was influenced by Wagner's music
- ♪ He was very happy with the result

# Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov

♪ *Mlada* (1903)



# Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov

1894-1908 He wrote many operas including:

- ♪ *Mozart and Salieri, The Tale of Tsar Sultan, The Golden Cockerel*
- ♪ His musical contribution was spread widely in chamber, orchestral and opera.

# Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov

## ♪ *The Golden Cockerel* (1907)

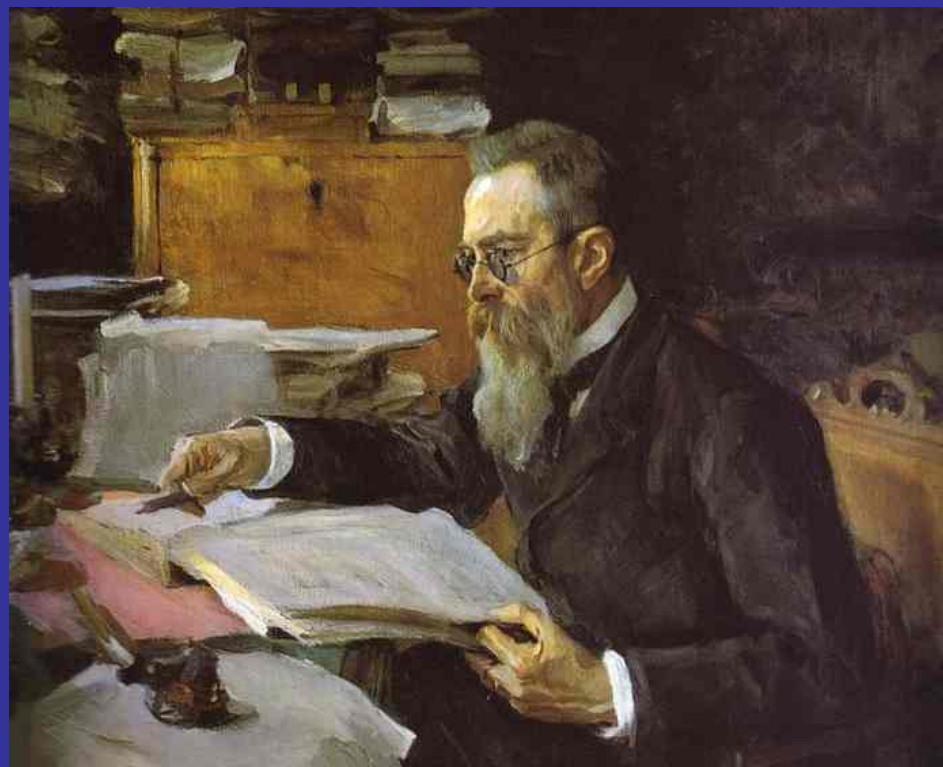


# Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov

- ♪ He was also a man of the world, aware of the politics and privations in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Russia.
- ♪ He demonstrated with his students in the 1905 revolution and was dismissed.
- ♪ Later his former student Glazunov who was director of the Academy invited him to return.

# Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov

♪ *Sheherezade* (1888): 1<sup>st</sup> Movement  
*The Sea and Sinbad's Ship* (Largo e  
maestoso — Lento — Allegro non troppo  
— Tranquillo)





**Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov**

**Died 1908 and is buried in the grounds of the  
Alexander Nyeviski Monastery alongside  
Borodin and Mussorgsky and Glinka**