



## NEWS OF THE DAY

### Russian Music Concerts at the Opera

Under the patronage of the Society of Great Auditions, presided over by Countess Greffuth, five historic concerts of Russian music will be given at the Paris Opera on the 16th, 19th, 23rd, 26th, and 30th. This artistic event promises to be a success. The booking lists are filling up with names, at the top of which are those of Their Royal Highnesses Grand Dukes Paul and Cyril, Grand Duchess Vladimir, the Russian Ambassador, etc.

These concerts will be a true revelation for dilettantes and the Parisian public. Indeed, we only know fragments of Russian music from those performed in our major classical concerts; only the Conservatory has presented an entire act of Rimsky-Korsakov's *Sadko* to a necessarily limited audience. The works of the composers grouped in the five concerts we will hear at the Opera will at least allow us to gain an overview of music in Russia.

Glinka, the father of Russian music, is the first to appear on the program. As early as 1836, Glinka understood that the music of his country should remain national, drawing inspiration solely from folk songs and melodies.

This path was later followed by those known as the "Mighty Handful." It is to them that modern Russian theatre and Russian symphonic music owe their renown. These Five are: Borodin, Mussorgsky, César Cui, Balakiref, and Rimsky-Korsakov. We will have the great pleasure of applauding the latter, who will conduct several of his works.

The reform preached by the Five was, in imitation of Glinka, to be free from any outside musical influence and to seek inspiration only in the realm of exclusively Russian melody. Alongside these Five, and immediately following them, we must mention their successor, Mr. Glazunov, the director of the Saint Petersburg Conservatory.

The program also includes works by talented young Russian musicians, such as Messrs. Scriabin, Liadov, Liapunof, and Rachmaninoff. Finally, Tchaikovsky, who is generally contrasted as a traditionalist with the progressive school of the Five, will be represented in this history of music by a symphony and by an act from a theatrical work

No less brilliant is the list of performers who will be tasked with revealing the masterpieces of Russian theatre. They will be Mesdames Tscherkassky, Litvinne, Zbruyewa, and Petrenko; and Messieurs Chaliapin, the renowned bass singer Kastorsky, Smirnof, Filipof, and Matveev, all artists from the St. Petersburg Opera.

The pianist Joseph Hofmann will play a Scriabin concerto.

In addition to the composers Rimsky-Korsakov, Glazunov, Scriabin, and Rachmaninoff, who will conduct their own works, the conductors will be Arthur Nikisch, Blumenfeld (conductor of the Saint Petersburg Opera) and Camille Chevillard.

Both modern and early Russian music will be a true revelation for the Parisian public. The now certain success of this musical event is entirely to the credit of the Société des Grandes Auditions and its president, Countess Greffulhe, who initiated it.

The first evening will include Rimsky-Korsakov's *Christmas Night*, Tchaikovsky's *Second Symphony*, and performances by Mesdames Tcherkassky and Zbrouïewa, and Messieurs Chaliapin, Kastorsky, Smirnof, and Telepof, from the Imperial Russian Opera, in Act I of Glinka's *Ruslann and Lyudmila*, and Scene 2 of Act 4 of Borodin's *Prince Igor*. Mr. Arthur Nikisch will conduct the orchestra.

[Translation: Google]