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MUSSORGSKY

SOROCHYNSTI FAIR

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The Fair at Sorochyntsi (Russian: Сорочинская ярмарка, Sorochinskaya yarmarka, Sorochyntsi Fair) is a comic opera in three acts by Modest Mussorgsky, composed between 1874 and 1880 in St. Petersburg, Russia. The composer wrote the libretto, which is based on Nikolay Gogol's short story of the same name, from his early (1832) collection of Ukrainian stories *Evenings on a Farm near Dikanka*. The opera remained unfinished and unperformed upon Mussorgsky's death in 1881.

Mussorgsky worked on the opera between 1874 and 1880, in competition with his work on *Khovanshchina* (1872–1880); both were incomplete at the time of his death in 1881. He reused some music that he had written previously (such as the "Market Scene" from Act II of the ill-fated *Madama Butterfly* of 1872, used for the opening scene of *Fair*). Incorporation of the music of *Night on Bald Mountain* as a dream sequence involving the hero was a late addition to the scenario in the course of composition, despite the fact that such an episode is not suggested by the original story. Although Mussorgsky managed to complete some numbers and even some of the orchestration, significant portions of the scenario were left without any music at all or only in bare sketches.

Several subsequent composers and editors played partial or maximal roles in bringing the work into a performable state. The first staged performance, with spoken sections, occurred on 8 October 1913 in Moscow under Konstantin Saradzhev. Beginning in 1917, the first of several fully sung versions reached the stage.

Act 1 At the fair, merchants are peddling their wares to the crowd of visitors arriving from all around. The Gypsy makes reference to a red jacket that the devil is looking for, while the lad Gritsko woos Parassia. Her father, Cherevik, at first is indignant at this forwardness, but, after realizing that Gritsko is the son of a close friend, he agrees to let Gritsko marry his daughter. The two men go into the tavern to celebrate, as evening settles and the people disperse.

Cherevik and his buddy, Kum, come out of the tavern in a drunken state. After they wander around in the dark, Khivria, Cherevik's wife, comes out of their house, and he announces Parassia's engagement. But Khivria objects, and, while Gritsko overhears, drunken Cherevik concedes that the wedding will not happen. Gritsko, alone, bemoans his sadness. The Gypsy enters, and the two make a pact: Gritsko will give the Gypsy his oxen for fifteen rubles if the latter can make Cherevik change his mind.

Intermezzo: Gritsko's Dream Vision Alone, Gritsko falls asleep and has a dream involving witches and devils. They are dispelled by church bells. [NB. Later revisions by other composers relocated this to Act 3, as heard here.]

Act 2 Inside Kum's house, where they are lodging, Khivria quarrels with Cherevik, getting him to leave, so that she may keep her secret rendezvous with Afanasy Ivanovich, the son of the village priest. When the latter arrives, she offers him her culinary delicacies, which he devours. In the midst of their amorous encounter a knock is heard at the door. Afanasy hides on a shelf, and in walk Cherevik and Kum, with friends, alarmed by a rumor that someone has seen the red jacket and the devil. Kum begins to give more of the legend, concluding with the remark that the devil appears every year at the fair with a pig's face, looking for the red jacket. Suddenly a pig's snout is seen in the window, and everyone runs about in confusion.

Act 3 Scene 1 On a street, as a result of the superstitious confusion of the previous scene, Cherevik and Kum are being chased by the Gypsy and some lads. The latter accuse the two older men of stealing a mare, and tie them up. Gritsko enters, extracting a promise from Cherevik to have the wedding to Parassia the next day, and the two older men are released.

Scene 2 On a street in front of Kum's house, Parassia at first is sad about Gritsko, but then cheers herself up with a little hopak, in which Cherevik joins without her noticing. Kum and Gritsko enter, and Cherevik blesses the two lovers, only to be met by Khivria's rage, which prompts the Gypsy to call on the lads to restrain her. The people celebrate the wedding with a gopak.

FULL PROGRAMME NOTES CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM

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MUSSORGSKY

SOROCHYNTSI FAIR

AN OPERA IN THREE ACTS

CHEREVIK - LATKO KOROSHETZ

KHIVRIA - BOGDANA STRITAR

PARASSIA - VILMA BUKOVETZ

KUM - FRIDERIK LUPSHA

GRITSKO - MIRO BRANJNIK

AFANSY IVANOVICH - SLAVKO SHTRUKEL

GYPSY - ANDREI ANDREEV

CHERNOBOG - SAMO SMERKOLJ

SLOVENIAN NATIONAL OPERA
ORCHESTRA & CHORUS

CONDUCTED BY SAMO HUBAD

STUDIO RECORDING, 1955

MUSSORGSKY NIGHT ON A BARE MOUNTAIN

BORODIN POLOVTSIAN DANCES

VIENNA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

DER SINGVEREIN DER GESELLSCHAFT DER

MUSIKFREUNDE, VIENNA

CONDUCTOR WILLEM VAN OTTERLOO

STUDIO RECORDING, 1958

MUSSORGSKY Sorochynsti Fair (Orch. & completed by Liadov, Shebalin et al)*Disc One*

- 1 Introduction - A hot day in the Ukraine (2:48)
- 2 Act 1. The fair scene (3:50)
- 3 The Gypsy's appearance (6:13)
- 4 Cherevik and the Godfather (3:08)
- 5 Cherevik and Khivria (4:57)
- 6 Gritsko's meditation and finale (6:56)
- 7 Act 2. Cherevik and Khivria (8:53)
- 8 Khivria alone (5:55)
- 9 Khivria's song (2:50)
- 10 Khivria with the priest's son (7:50)
- 11 Guests are coming (7:05)
- 12 Cherevik's song with guests (5:42)
- 13 Godfather's tale and finale (5:39)

Disc Two

- 1 Act 3. Sorochyntsi street scene - Cherevik and Godfather with chorus, then Gypsy, Gritsko (8:11)
- 2 Intermezzo - Gritsko's dream vision (13:05)
- 3 Parassia's meditation (6:48)
- 4 Hopak (1:50)

Slovenian National Opera, Orchestra and Chorus
conducted by **Samo Hubad**

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- 5 **MUSSORGSKY Night on the Bare Mountain** (Orch. Rimsky-Korsakov) (10:56)
- 6 **BORODIN Polovtsian Dances** (Orch. Rimsky-Korsakov, Glazunov) (13:34)

Vienna Symphony Orchestra
Der Singverein der Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde, Vienna
conducted by **Willem van Otterloo**

Transfer from Fontana white label vinyl test pressings for EFR 2012



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XR remastering by **Andrew Rose**Cover artwork detail from portrait of
Mussorgsky, 1881, by Ilya Repin**Sorochyntsi Fair**Recording producer: **Simek**
Recording Engineer: **Buczynski**
Recorded 27 November 1955
Salle Apollo, Ljubljana**Night on the Bare Mountain &
Polvstian Dances**Recording producer: **Meulen**
Engineers: **Buczynski, Schack**
Recorded 23 February 1958
Grosser Saal, Musikverein, ViennaTotal duration: **2hr 6:09**For a full catalogue visit
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