

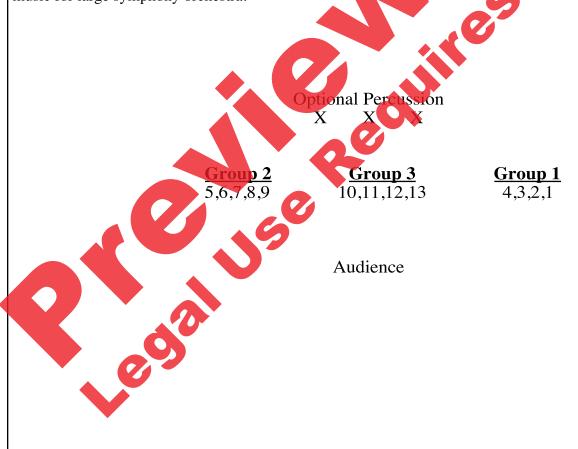
The Great Gate of Kiev *from* Pictures at an Exhibition

Modeste Mussorgsky Arranged by P. Bradley Ulrich

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Mussorgsky was one of a group of 19th century Russian nationalist composers dubbed "the mighty five." They endeavored to imbue their music with a spirit of Russian history and folk music tradition. Mussorgsky wrote two operas (*Khovanshchina* and *Boris Godunov*), the symphonic fantasy *A Night on Bald Mountain*, and three song cycles (*Without Sun*, *The Nursery*, and *Songs and Dances of Death*).

When one of Mussorgsky's closest friends, the artist Viktor Hartmann, died suddenly in 1873 a memorial exhibition of his paintings was organized the following year. Viewing the works of his departed friend, Mussorgsky was moved to write a tribute: a series of musical interpretations of the paintings, hence *Pictures at an Exhibition*. Originally written for piano solo, the music has been transcribed and arranged for all manner of instruments. However, by far the most famous is the orchestral transcription completed by the French composer Maurice Ravel. This version of "Pictures" was premiered on October 19, 1922 in Paris with Serge Koussevitzky conducting. A master of brilliant orchestral colour, Ravel scored his version of Mussorgsky's music for large symphony orchestra.



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B.D.

B♭ Trumpet 13

Suspended Cymbal Crash Cymbals Bass Drum

Gong









