

# MODEST PETROVITCH MUSSORGSKY

(1839-1881)

**Who** was Mussorgsky? He was a Russian composer. 🔊

**Where** was he born? He was born in Russia. 🔊

**When** was he born? He was born in 1839 (eighteen thirty-nine). 🔊

**When** did he die? He died in 1881 (eighteen eighty-one). 🔊

**How** was his music? His music was nationalist music, based on Russian folksongs<sup>1</sup> and Russian culture and tradition. 🔊

**How** was his life? He grew up<sup>2</sup> in a rich and noble family and he started piano lessons with his mother (a pianist) and then he studied at the elite Peterschule. He went<sup>3</sup> to the military school but he preferred to be a musician. When he lost<sup>4</sup> the family wealth<sup>5</sup>, he suffered of depression and isolation. So he had problems with alcohols. 🔊

**Why** did he die at the age of 42? Because of an epileptic attack (caused by alcohol). 🔊

**Why** is he famous? He was an innovator of Russian music. He was an extremely creative, original and bold piano composer. 🔊

## Well-Known Works by Modest Mussorgsky:

- ✓ Night on Bald Mountain (1867)
- ✓ The Nursery (1868)
- ✓ Pictures at an Exhibition (1874)
- ✓ Songs and Dances of Death (1875)



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<sup>1</sup> canzoni popolari

<sup>2</sup> crebbe

<sup>3</sup> andò (frequentò), è la forma passata di "GO"

<sup>4</sup> perse

<sup>5</sup> benessere, ricchezza