# 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[1] and Russian culture and tradition.**

**How was his life? He grew up[2] 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[3] to the military school but he preferred to be a musician. When he lost[4] the family wealth[5], 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)**
- ✓ **<u>Pictures at an Exhibition (1874)</u>**
- ✓ **Songs and Dances of Death (1875)**

---

[1] canzoni popolari
[2] crebbe
[3] andò (frequentò), è la forma passata di "GO"
[4] perse
[5] benessere, ricchezza

LIVEWORKSHEETS