

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 folksongs¹ and Russian culture and tradition. 🔊

How was his life? He grew up² 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 went³ to the military school but he preferred to be a musician. When he lost⁴ the family wealth⁵, 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)



¹ canzoni popolari

² crebbe

³ andò (frequentò), è la forma passata di "GO"

⁴ perse

⁵ benessere, ricchezza