Romantic music IX

A. Borodin (1833-1887)

The cold of medieval Russia frames the story of the opera Prince Igor, with a strong national feeling, which tells us the story of a Russian nobleman who successfully fought the Asian invaders on his borders and the intriguing men who threatened from within.

Towards the end of the second of the four acts, with Igor imprisoned in the Polovtsian camp, the warriors dance their wild dances.

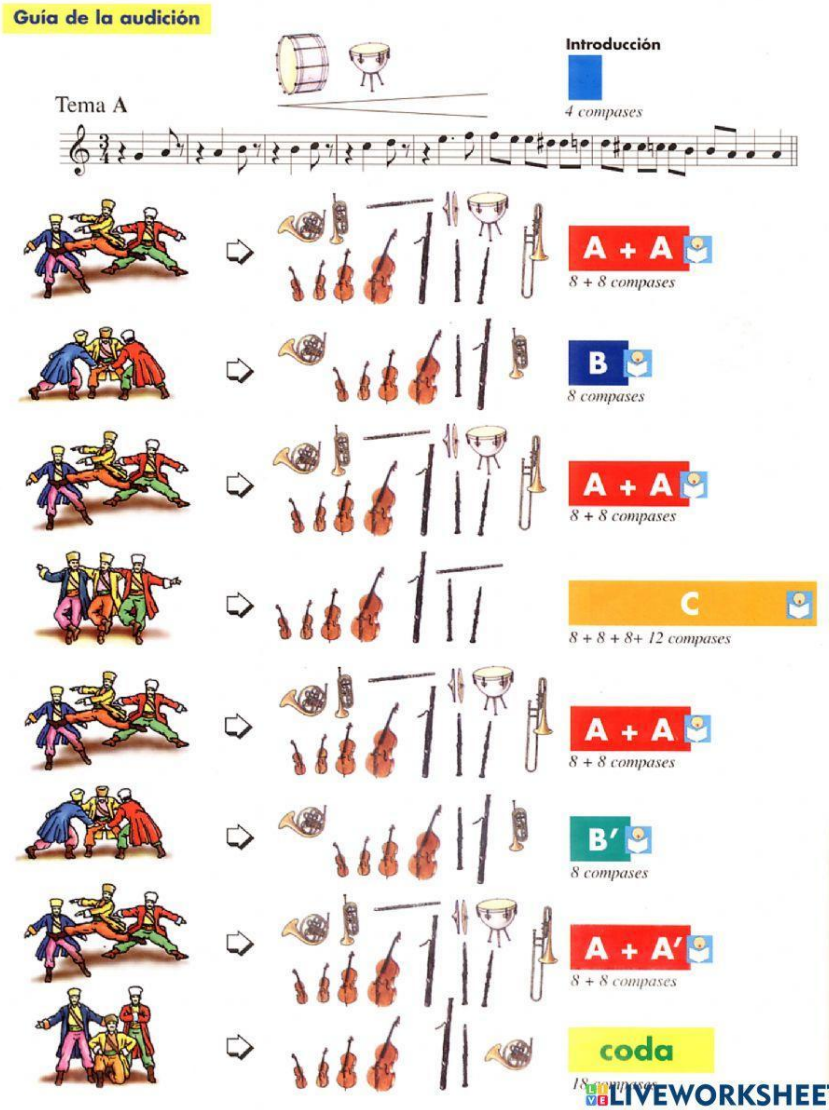
This was the only opera by Alexander Borodin, who was a doctor by profession and was attracted to music by Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov, who finished orchestrating it when it was left unfinished due to the death of its author.

Exercise 1: After following the musicogram, answer the following questions:

- Which feature stands out more in theme A, its melody or its rhythm?
- In fragment C, is the soloist a tenor or a bass?
- What kind of choir intervenes in parts A, B and C?
- Choose from among the following instrumental families the one that you consider plays the last two bars of the coda. Mark it with a tick:

  WOODWIND STRING BRASSWIND PERCUSSION

- Looking at his musical writing, what do you think is due to the rhythmic strength of the main theme?
- Regarding the musical relationship between A. Borodin and N. Rimsky-Korsakov, what is the difference between composing and orchestrating?



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