



COMPOSER SPOTLIGHT



VLADIMIR REBIKOV

1866–1920

Style: Late-Romantic/
Contemporary



A Musical Family

Vladimir Rebikov was born in Siberia, Russia into a musical family. He began studying with his mother. His sisters were also pianists.

Formal Education

Rebikov graduated from Moscow University with a degree in philology, the study of languages. He then went on to study music at the Moscow Conservatory with Nikolai Klenovsky, one of Tchaikovsky's former students. He studied music theory, instrumentation, and piano for three years more in Berlin and Vienna before teaching and concertizing across Russia and Europe.



Moscow Conservatory, 1901



Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Developing a Personal Style

Rebikov's early music suggests the influence of Tchaikovsky, but he had a personal affinity for the whole-tone scale and developed a unique harmonic language later in life. He also incorporated musical innovations such as quartal harmony and bitonality.

Legacy

His children's music is probably the most notable of his works; he produced a number of lyrical piano miniatures, children's choruses, and songs. Although successful in this genre, Rebikov struggled to scale his ideas for larger works. He strongly believed that composers such as Debussy, Scriabin, and Stravinsky had gained their fame by stealing his ideas. Although these claims are a bit exaggerated, he does deserve to be better known as an important music innovator.

Significant Works:

- Silhouettes for piano, Op. 31
- Valse, from the opera The Christmas Tree, Op. 21