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| Modest Mussorgsky Exercises | museducation.org/299 | Video and exercises |

**Match terms**

*Task: Match each term with the appropriate explanation!*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| (A) | Noble family | (1) | Famous Russian composer |
| (A) | Russian nationalists | (2) | High social class family |
| (C) | Mussorgsky | (3) | Military training institution |
| (D) | The Mighty Heap | (4) | Group of Russian composers |
| (D) | Romantic era | (5) | Mussorgsky’s famous opera |
| (E) | Posthumously | (6) | Period emphasizing feelings in art |
| (I) | Boris Godunov | (7) | Composers focusing on Russian themes |
| (N) | Cadet school | (8) | Addiction to alcohol consumption |
| (T) | Alcoholism | (9) | After the person’s death |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Keyword:** | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ |
|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |

**Complete sentences**

*Task: Match the beginning of each sentence with the end!*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| (I) | He was born in ... | (1) | ... talented Russian composer. |
| (I) | He lived during the ... | (2) | ... Russia in 1839. |
| (O) | Many of his works ... | (3) | ... the opera „Boris Godunov“. |
| (R) | His music continues to ... | (4) | ... Romantic era of art. |
| (S) | His famous work is ... | (5) | ... including alcoholism. |
| (T) | Mussorgsky faced personal challenges ... | (6) | ... were published posthumously. |
| (V) | Mussorgsky was a ... | (7) | ... influence composers today. |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Keyword:** | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ |
|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |

**Questions (multiple choice)**

*Task: Answer the questions!*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. | What is Mussorgsky’s nationality? |
| (R) | German |
| (T) | Russian |
| (V) | French |
| 2. | What is „Boris Godunov“? |
| (A) | A painting |
| (S) | A novel |
| (U) | An opera composed by Mussorgsky |
| 3. | During which era did Mussorgsky live? |
| (M) | Baroque era |
| (N) | Romantic era |
| (R) | Renaissance era |
| 4. | What personal challenge did Mussorgsky face? |
| (N) | Alcoholism |
| (R) | Illiteracy |
| (V) | Poverty |
| 5. | When were many of Mussorgsky’s works published? |
| (A) | Before he started composing |
| (E) | Posthumously |
| (S) | During his childhood |
| 6. | What is one of Mussorgsky’s influences on music? |
| (L) | His works were admired and adapted by later composers |
| (R) | He invented new musical instruments |
| (V) | He established music schools |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Keyword**: | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ |
|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

**Right or wrong?**

*Task: State whether the statements are true or false!*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| right | wrong |  |
| (P) | (V) | 1. Mussorgsky was born in Russia. |
| (F) | (E) | 2. Mussorgsky was not a composer. |
| (R) | (N) | 3. He was born in the 20th century. |
| (C) | (R) | 4. Mussorgsky composed „Boris Godunov“. |
| (I) | (T) | 5. He lived in the Romantic era. |
| (A) | (L) | 6. Boris Godunov is a ballet. |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Keyword:** | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ |
|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

**7 Questions about the text**

*Task: Answer the questions in one or two complete sentences!*

What is Mussorgsky’s most famous work?

What group did Mussorgsky join in Saint Petersburg?

What themes did Mussorgsky often use in his music?

Who are some composers who admired and adapted Mussorgsky’s works?

What personal challenge affected Mussorgsky’s health and ability to compose?

When did Mussorgsky die and what happened to his works after his death?

What is an interesting fact about Mussorgsky?

**Solution sheet 1**

**Modest Mussorgsky**

**Match terms**

Mussorgsky = Famous Russian composer

Noble family = High social class family

Cadet school = Military training institution

The Mighty Heap = Group of Russian composers

Boris Godunov = Mussorgsky’s famous opera

Romantic era = Period emphasizing feelings in art

Russian nationalists = Composers focusing on Russian themes

Alcoholism = Addiction to alcohol consumption

Posthumously = After the person’s death

Keyword: CANDIDATE

**Complete sentences**

Mussorgsky was a | talented Russian composer.

He was born in | Russia in 1839.

His famous work is | the opera „Boris Godunov“.

He lived during the | Romantic era of art.

Mussorgsky faced personal challenges | including alcoholism.

Many of his works | were published posthumously.

His music continues to | influence composers today.

Keyword: VISITOR

**Questions**

What is Mussorgsky’s nationality?

Russian

What is „Boris Godunov“?

An opera composed by Mussorgsky

During which era did Mussorgsky live?

Romantic era

What personal challenge did Mussorgsky face?

Alcoholism

When were many of Mussorgsky’s works published?

Posthumously

What is one of Mussorgsky’s influences on music?

His works were admired and adapted by later composers

Keyword: TUNNEL

**Right or wrong?**

right

1. Mussorgsky was born in Russia.

4. Mussorgsky composed „Boris Godunov“.

5. He lived in the Romantic era.

wrong

6. Boris Godunov is a ballet.

2. Mussorgsky was not a composer.

3. He was born in the 20th century.

Keyword: PENCIL

**Solution sheet 2**

**Modest Mussorgsky**

**Questions and answers**

What is Mussorgsky’s most famous work?

Mussorgsky’s most famous work is the opera „Boris Godunov“.

What group did Mussorgsky join in Saint Petersburg?

In Saint Petersburg, Mussorgsky joined a group of composers known as „The Mighty Little Group.“

What themes did Mussorgsky often use in his music?

Mussorgsky often used Russian themes and folklore in his music.

Who are some composers who admired and adapted Mussorgsky’s works?

Some composers who admired and adapted Mussorgsky’s works include Claude Debussy and Igor Stravinsky.

What personal challenge affected Mussorgsky’s health and ability to compose?

Alcoholism was a personal challenge that affected Mussorgsky’s health and his ability to compose.

When did Mussorgsky die and what happened to his works after his death?

Mussorgsky died on March 28, 1881, and many of his works were published posthumously and arranged by other composers.

What is an interesting fact about Mussorgsky?

An interesting fact about Mussorgsky is that he composed the famous piano piece „Pictures at an Exhibition,“ which was inspired by an art exhibition.