

Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov
Dance of the Tumblers
from *The Snow Maiden*

arranged for percussion ensemble
by Lewis Norfleet



Dance of the Tumblers by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov, arranged by Lewis Norfleet
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Program notes

Mainly known for his symphonic works, *Scheherazade*, *Capriccio Espagnol*, and the *Russian Easter Festival Overture*, Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov (1844-1908) left an oeuvre that also included operas, chamber works, and songs. Rimsky-Korsakov's music is accessible and engaging, owing to his talent for tone coloring and brilliant orchestration. Furthermore, his operas are masterful musical evocations of myths and legends. In 1880 Rimsky-Korsakov became enthusiastic about a fantastic story told by Russian playwright Ostrovsky entitled *The Snow Maiden*. Shortly after this, Nikolai composed his most famous opera by the same name.

He extracted a suite from *The Snow Maiden* comprising four movements. The fourth of these movements is the well-known *Dance of the Tumblers*, an energetic orchestral showpiece in which the "tumblers" are skomorokhi, who were troupes of multitalented outdoor entertainers. Seemingly in a salute to their skills, Rimsky-Korsakov casts his dance in a classical sonata form, complete with development section, invigoratingly intensified reprise, and a veritable whirlwind of a coda.

This arrangement is very similar to the original work with the exception of the key, which has been changed from C major to F major. The piece speaks just as wonderfully and energetically through the percussion ensemble as the original symphonic orchestration.

Instrument/Parts list

This piece calls for **13 players** with the following instrumentation:

Glockenspiel

Xylophone

Chimes

2 Vibraphones

4 Marimbas (two 4.3-octave (low A) marimbas + two smaller 4-octave marimbas)

Timpani (4 drums)

Percussion 1: snare drum, small and large crash cymbals

Percussion 2: bass drum

Percussion 3: triangle (light and heavy beaters), crash cymbals, gong, tambourine

Note for larger ensembles: If there is a fifth marimba available, the Marimba 4 part may be doubled. If there is a third vibraphone available, the Vibraphone 2 part may be doubled.

Level: Med-Advanced
Duration: 3'00"

Dance of the Tumblers

from *The Snow Maiden*

Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov
arr. by Lewis Norfleet

[illegible]

Sample Image

45

F **G**

G

X

CH

V1

V2

M1

M2

M3

M4

T

P1-2

P3

mp *mf* *p* *mp* *mp* *p* *p*

Sample Image

60

G

X

CH

VI

V2

M1

H

I

mf

f

mp

mf

mf

mf

mf

f

f

mp

mp

mp

mp

f

f

mp

mp

mf

all crash cym.

gong
l.v.

mf

Sample Image

Sample Image

K

95

G

X

CH

VI

V2

M1

snare

vm

v.

f

f

f

f

f

f

p

Sample Image

L

108

G

X

CH

V1

V2

M1

M2

M3

M4

T

P1-2

P3

mf

f

mp

p

cr cym

Sample Image

N

135

G *mf* *mp*

X *mf* *f* *mp*

CH *mf*

V1 *f* *mp*

V2 *f* *mp*

M1 *mf* *pp*

M2 *mf* *f*

M3 *mf* *f*

M4 *f*

T *f*

lg. cr. cym

P1-2 *mf* bass drum (large mallet)

triangle (light beater)

P3 *mp*

Sample
Image

Sample Image

The image displays a page from a musical score, likely for a symphony, featuring multiple staves for different instruments or voices. The staves are labeled G, X, CH, VI, V2, and MI. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings like *f*, *p*, *mf*, and *mp*. A large, faint watermark of a map of Italy is visible in the background.

The score is written in a single system, with each staff containing a series of musical notes and rests. The dynamics are indicated by letters like *f* (forte), *p* (piano), *mf* (mezzo-forte), and *mp* (mezzo-piano). The notation includes various note values, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. The overall layout is clean and professional, typical of a printed musical score.

Sample Image

T *Accelerando poco a poco alla fine*

198

G *mp* *f*

X *mf p* *f*

CH *mp* *f*

VI *p* *f*

V2 *p* *f*

M1 *mf p* *f*

M2 *f*

M3 *f*

M4 *f*

M5 *f*

M6 *f*

M7 *f*

M8 *f*

M9 *f*

M10 *f*

M11 *f*

M12 *f*

M13 *f*

M14 *f*

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M941 *f*

M942 *f*

M943 *f*

M944

