# MASTERS OF RUSSIAN MUSIC. RIMSKY-KORSAKOF

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Masters of Russian Music. Rimsky-Korsakof by M. Montagu-Nathan

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## M. MONTAGU-NATHAN

# MASTERS OF RUSSIAN MUSIC. RIMSKY-KORSAKOF



RIMSKY-KORSAKOF



RIMSKY-KORSAKOF From a portrait by Serof

### MASTERS OF RUSSIAN MUSIC

## RIMSKY-KORSAKOF

BY

### M. MONTAGU-NATHAN

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NEW YORK
DUFFIELD AND COMPANY
1917

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To FRANK

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### RIMSKY-KORSAKOF

### INTRODUCTION

STUDENTS of Slavonic Literature—a subject that deserves the earnest attention of all who would understand Russian music—are aware that the poets of the first quarter of the nineteenth century were for the most part in revolt against the then prevalent worship of Classicism in art, and that with the early works of Pushkin a movement aiming at the enthronement of Nationalism was initiated.

The parallel force in music can hardly be called a movement, since the prime mover was a man who, at a moment when isolated from nationalistic influences, stumbled upon the truth by accident. Michael Ivanovich Glinka, listening to music in Italy, suddenly became possessed by an intense longing for a kind of music that would speak to him of his native land. At that moment he had little more than his profound love of music to help him, for his technical knowledge was of the scantiest. His conviction that the music of the People—a vast though neglected store of melody—could be used as the basis of art-music was sufficient. The result of Glinka's effort has been acclaimed by