

**KHOVANCHTCHINA (THE  
KHOVANSKYS): A  
NATIONAL MUSIC  
DRAMA IN FIVE ACTS**

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Khovanchtchina (The Khovanskys): a National Music Drama in Five Acts by M. Moussorgsky  
& Rosa Newmarch

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**M. MOUSSORGSKY & ROSA NEWMARCH**

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# KHOVANCHTCHINA

(THE KHOVANSKYS)

A NATIONAL MUSIC DRAMA  
IN FIVE ACTS

*by*

M. MOUSSORGSKY

*English Version by*

ROSA NEWMARCH

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*Price 65 Cents*

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### CHARACTERS

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|   |   |
|---|---|
| PRINCE IVAN KHOVANSKY—<br>Chief of the Guards (Archers) . . . . . | <i>Bass</i>                                 |
| PRINCE ANDREW KHOVANSKY—his son . . . . .                         | <i>Tenor</i>                                |
| PRINCE VASSILY GALITSIN . . . . .                                 | <i>Tenor</i>                                |
| THE BOYARD, SHAKLOVITY . . . . .                                  | <i>Baritone</i>                             |
| DOSITHENS, leader of the Old Believers . . . . .                  | <i>Bass</i>                                 |
| MARTHA, a young widow, an Old Believer . . . . .                  | <i>Mezzo-Soprano</i>                        |
| A SCRIVENER . . . . .   | <i>Tenor</i>                                |
| EMMA, a young girl from the German quarters . . . . .             | <i>Soprano</i>                              |
| VARSONOFIEV, attendant to GALITSIN . . . . .                      | <i>Baritone</i>                             |
| KOUZKA, an archer . . . . .                                       | <i>Bass</i>                                 |
| 1st } Archers of the Guard (Streltsy) }<br>2nd }<br>3rd }         | <i>Bass</i><br><i>Tenor</i><br><i>Tenor</i> |
| STRESHNIEV . . . . .  | <i>Tenor</i>                                |
| SUSANNE, an Old Believer . . . . .                                | <i>Soprano</i>                              |

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Archers, Old Believers, Maids-in-Waiting, Persian Slaves of Prince Ivan, Petrovsky-Poteshny (bodyguards of Peter the Great) Populace

*Printed in the U.S.A.*

## SYNOPSIS

### ACT I

The Red Square in Moscow — Sunrise. Time — 1682.

KOUZKA, an archer, is sleeping on guard, but is awakened by a passing group of archers who boast of their exploits of the night. A SCRIVENER appears and is soon engaged to write a letter at the dictation of the BOYARD SHAKLOVITY. It is addressed to the Tsar and is a warning that PRINCE IVAN KHOVANSKY and his son ANDREW are plotting to raise rebellion in the empire and seize the throne for ANDREW. They are interrupted by the arrival of PRINCE IVAN KHOVANSKY with his guards, who tells the people he is determined to crush the enemies of the crown, and to suppress treason. He orders the archers to patrol the city. The procession and the crowd depart. EMMA enters followed by PRINCE ANDREW who attempts to kiss her notwithstanding her repulses. She is given respite from his unwelcome advances by the arrival of MARTHA, a cast-off love of the Prince. She upbraids ANDREW who angrily attacks her with his dagger. MARTHA parries his thrust with her own dagger. The contest is stopped without damage to either by the return of PRINCE IVAN and his archers. The father is attracted to EMMA and orders his archers to take her away and guard her. PRINCE ANDREW attempts to kill her rather than lose her but his blow is stayed by DOSITHENS (leader of the Old Believers). Peace is again restored and EMMA departs in the care of MARTHA. The Princes leave and the Old Believers kneel in prayer.

### ACT II

A summer apartment in the home of PRINCE GALITSIN. Late evening.

The prince is reading a letter from the Tsarevna, but despite its endearing tenor he is distrustful of her sincerity. His attendant announces the arrival of MARTHA for whom he has sent to tell his future. She tells him that he is surrounded by false friends and that disgrace and exile is his destiny. Enraged by this prediction the Prince orders his attendant to have her drowned at once. PRINCE IVAN KHOVANSKY enters unannounced and complains bitterly at the high-handed manner in which PRINCE GALITSIN is treating the nobility. Their argument is interrupted by DOSITHENS who tells them that the salvation of the country is in a return to ancient ideals and customs. The song of the Old Believers is heard in the distance. MARTHA rushes in abruptly asking for protection against the attendant who had tried to drown her at PRINCE GALITSIN'S order. The arrival of the bodyguard of Peter the Great had saved MARTHA. The Princes are alarmed at the unexpected appearance of the Tsars Guards. The BOYARD SHAKLOVITY appears to announce that the Tsarevna has proclaimed the KHOVANSKYS traitors.

### ACT III

The quarters of the GUARDS. Afternoon.

MARTHA sings of her past love for PRINCE ANDREW and is overheard by SUSANNE who berates her for having sinful thoughts. DOSITHENS who has just left the house of PRINCE ANDREW arrives and comforts MARTHA. After they leave, SHAKLOVITY enters and sings of his hope that Russia may be delivered from its distress. He conceals himself when he hears a chorus of Guards (archers) approach, singing a drinking song. They are followed by their wo-

men folk who scold them for being drunkards and wastrels. The tumult is stopped by the appearance of the SCRIVENER who is exhausted from his precipitous flight from the outskirts of the GUARDS' quarters. He tells them that he has seen foreign soldiers attack women and children. The Tsars own troops arrived and aided them. The GUARDS were beaten back. In consternation the listeners call for their Captain, PRINCE IVAN, to lead them against the attackers, but he tells them to yield to the will of the Tsar.

#### ACT IV

##### Tableau I. Dining hall in home of PRINCE IVAN KHOVANSKY.

The Prince is being entertained by his maids-in-waiting, but complains that their songs are too dolorous for his mood. VARSONOFIEV arrives with a message of warning from PRINCE GALITSIN but PRINCE IVAN does not heed it and sends for his Persian slaves to dance for him. As the dance ends SHAKLOVITY arrives to invite the Prince to the council meeting of the Tsarevna. As the Prince prepares to leave he is stabbed in the back by SHAKLOVITY.

##### Tableau II. Moscow—The square in front of the church of Vassily Blajeny

As the people watch, PRINCE GALITSIN passes by in a carriage guarded by troops. He has been banished to exile. DOSITHENS bemoans the fate that has befallen the two Princes. MARTHA and PRINCE ANDREW meet. He commands her to bring EMMA to him. MARTHA tells him that it is futile to search for EMMA, who has been reunited to her lover and is now wed. She also tells him that his own life is threatened. PRINCE ANDREW believes MARTHA is deceiving him. He summons the archers, who enter carrying axes and blocks on which they believe their own heads will fall. PRINCE ANDREW, finally convinced that MARTHA has told him the truth, begs her to save him. They depart to a secret hiding place. The Tsar's troops appear and announce that the archers have been pardoned.

#### ACT V

##### A pine-wood. The hermitage. Moonlight.

The Old Believers have gathered at the hermitage and bewail their lost cause. They are persecuted throughout Russia. The quarrels of the Princes have resulted in their downfall. Rather than yield to the soldiers, whose trumpets can be heard approaching, they will perish and thus hope for salvation. DOSITHENS tells them to prepare for death. MARTHA and PRINCE ANDREW join him and the Old Believers as they mount the funeral pyre carrying lighted tapers. The arriving troops fall back in horror at the sight of the flaming funeral pyre.



## ACT I

### Dawn on the River Moskva

*The curtain rises slowly.*

*Moscow. The Red Square. A stone pillar with brass plates bearing inscriptions. On the right the SCRIVENER'S shelter. From the pillar a chain stretches across the Square. Dawn. A GUARD (archer) sleeping near the pillar.*

*The rising sun begins to gild the domes of the churches. The bells ring for matins.*

### SCENE I

#### The Guards, Kouzka, with the 1st and 2nd Guards

(KOUZKA, near the pillar, half asleep. The trumpet call of the GUARDS is heard behind the scenes)

#### Kouzka

Marching on, marching on, to Ivangorod,  
There we sapp'd  
There we breech'd all the high stone walls  
(the patrol enters, and removes chain, trumpets)  
There I caught and I kiss'd such a buxom wench.

#### 2nd Guard

Lock there! Snoring!

#### 1st Guard

Well, he has earn'd his slumber.  
Last night, I tell you, we were busy.

#### 2nd Guard

What were you at?

#### 1st Guard

Why, that clerk, the Council's clerk, whom they call  
Ivan Larivon.  
Well, he won't breathe again, we stove his ribs in!

#### 2nd Guard

That German, Haden, too, we chased him to the Saviour's  
Chapel in the wood and dragg'd him here, then we made  
short work of him, I tell you.

(trumpets off stage)

*KHOVANCHTCHINA*

**1st Guard**

What a noise out there!

**Kouzka**

Oh! furious wind spare me, let me slumber.

**2nd Guard**

Good, sooth 'tis not by silence they show they're ready  
to protect the lives of our young Tsars,

**1st Guard**

from foes within and out,  
from crafty boyards, greedy, extortioners who rob the  
treasury.

**Kouzka**

Oh, don't cut my toes off, little trotting toes.

*(trumpets off stage)*

**2nd Guard**

"Up there" it threatens!

**Kouzka**

*(jumping up)*

What! extortioners? I'm at them!

**1st and 2nd Guards**

Ha! old Kouzka, famous sentry,  
Ha! our watchful, valiant guardian!

**1st Guard**

Ha, ha, ha, ha.

**Kouzka**

Ha, ha, ha, ha.

The deuce now, what brings you here at midnight?

**1st and 2nd Guards**

He thinks it still is night!  
Why, the sun is up and shining!  
Look, yonder comes the Scriv'ner, see.

*KHOVANCHTCHINA*

**SCENE II**

**The Scrivener; at first the Guards; afterwards Shaklovity**

*(enter the SCRIVENER cutting a quill)*

**1st Guard**

He cuts his quill.

**Kouzka**

And what a great inkhorn, Saints above!

**2nd Guard**

Hark how his pen scrapes!

*(they approach the SCRIVENER)*

**1st and 2nd Guards**

Please, your Worship Writer to the Council

*(they bow low in mockery)*

Would look far better seated on this post!

**Kouzka**

Ha, ha, ha, ha!

**1st and 2nd Guards**

Ha, ha, ha, ha!

*(exit to the Kremlin)*

**Scrivener**

Oh, Sodom and Gomorrah! What evil days!

Shocking times! Yet business is not bad. . . No!

*(rubbing his hands)*

**Shaklovity**

*(enters)*

Hey! Scriv'ner! Come hither!

I bring important business, come!

**Scrivener**

Good! I am at your service. . . Ready in a flash.

Neatly, clearly, quite correctly,

I'll inscribe a full indictment.

**Shaklovity**

If thou darest suffer the rack; if thou fearest not the thumbscrew, or the pillory; if thou hast heart from all thy lov'd ones to part for aye; ne'er to see thy home again, then write!