

**Mussorgsky 1839 - 1881**

## **Pictures at an Exhibition**

In which we promenade from picture to picture(s). The exhibition, of paintings by the composer's friend Alexander Hartmann, was given in St Petersburg in 1874 as a memorial to Hartmann who had died suddenly at the age of 39. Deeply moved, Mussorgsky wrote at 'a furious pace - - - - I can barely manage to scribble them on paper fast enough'.

**Promenade 1** to the first painting -

**Gnomus** - pure malevolence - moving with horrible stealth - ever ready to pounce !

**Promenade 2**

**The Old Castle** - by a castle wall a troubadour strums his lyre and sings to a lady - but she makes no sign - no appearance at her window - his song falters - and with an abrupt chord he leaves

**Promenade 3** to two pictures :

**Tuileries.** Parisian children play - 'you're it !' - and quarrel - a governess tries to pacify - the bickering continues.

**Bydlo** - A Polish oxen wagon - massive - fleeing oppression ?

**Promenade 4** to two pictures -

**Ballet of the unhatched chicks**

**Samuel Goldenberg and Schmuyle** The rich, ill-tempered merchant and his complaining minion.

**Promenade 5**

**Limoges - The Market** - hectic bustle and argument over goods 'I saw it first' -- and a headlong plunge down into the

**Catacombs** - the sombre tunnels beneath Paris ( **M** Denfert Rochereau)

**Cum Mortuis in Lingua Mortua** - '*with the dead in a dead language*' - a ghostly version of the promenade theme

**Baba Yaga** - out of folklore - a hut on fowl's legs stomping through the night hours.

**The Great Gate of Kyiv** - Massive architecture - bells, a distant orthodox choir - many more bells - Kyiv stands !

## **Robert Johnson 1911 - 1938 4 Blues Transcriptions - - - T H**

One of the most iconic Delta blues singers - his recordings (2 sessions only) with his unique guitar playing have influenced the work of many blues artists. TH has just completed an album of 12 RJ blues for the French label **Disques Nato** - here are 4 of them.

(See if you can 'hear' the words)

**Kindhearted Woman Blues** ....*I got a kindhearted woman.....*

**Last fair deal going down** ... *I'm 'on drive my blues away ....*

**Love in Vain.** ... *all my love's in vain....*

**Stop breakin' down blues** .... *please stop breaking down ....*

and as some form of consolation (?) :

## **Liszt 1811- 1886**

### **Third Consolation ..... in D flat.**

celebrating the value of friendship. A tribute to Chopin in its pianistic style.

### **First Mephisto Waltz.** (*Liszt wrote four but this is the one that counts*)

In which Dr Faust and Mephistopheles arrive at a village inn. M seizes a violin from a fiddler, tunes it (twice) and plays a manic waltz which sees the Doctor and the innkeeper's daughter Marie whirl out into the night with all the echoes of seduction and twitterings of night life in the forest. Back at the inn the cembalom plays - M, surrounded by sulphurous clouds, reveals his true appearance - the villagers flee terrified - but M is claiming what is due to him thanks to a longstanding bargain - Faust's soul. After an extended chase all goes quiet apart from a solitary bird singing.

Dawn - but too late - with a roar of interlocking octaves Mephistopheles has the final word.

Tony Hymas is a composer with a long catalogue of music to his name ranging from symphonic orchestral works to Golden Hits - from childrens' favourites to jazz (almost) standards - from rock classics (c.f. Risky Business) to Native American concept albums (Oyate, Remake of the American Dream etc) - and a large quantity of library music some of which, if you heard a clip, you might well recognise.

As a Grammy award winning keyboard player and London session musician he played with / for many 'names' (Dames Cleo Laine, Kiri Te Kanawa , Sarah Connolly, F Sinatra, C Berry, Dizzy Gillespie , Jack Bruce , Jeff Beck ..Bronwen Mills.. et al ...

and as a pianist in many chamber groups in the classical repertoire (Matrix, East West Horn Trio, Music and Revolution). His own bands include PhD, Sulzcottymas, The Lonely Bears and Ursus Minor .

His versatility in so many different musical styles and disciplines has puzzled many observers and musicians - he puts it down to a huge enthusiasm from a very early age (wanting to be a composer) for pretty well all music (earliest memory The Runaway Rocking Horse) - up to Bad Bunny - via Bach J.S. , Tchaikovsky, Art Tatum, Miles Davis, Bela Bartok .... et al .....