



## Elementary Slideshow - Educator Notes

### SLIDE 1:

This is the Full Title of the performance you'll be seeing October 30, 2023. Kate Botello from Interlochen Public Radio and Kids Commute will be narrating the event, which will include an octet (8 musicians) of different instruments plus a pianist for the promenade. As each movement is performed live for you, you'll get to see a projected image of the artwork that inspired Mussorgsky to write the movement!

### SLIDE 2:

Mussorgsky wrote *Pictures at an Exhibition* in 1874, and the work was originally composed as 10 movements, for piano only. *Pictures at an Exhibition* was not published until 1881, just after Mussorgsky died at age 42. The French composer Maurice Ravel orchestrated it in the early 1900s.

NOTE: *Pictures at an Exhibition* will begin playing on this slide and will continue until you reach the next audio/visual component; the music will stop automatically on Slide 7.

### SLIDE 3:

The sad face is to remind us of the story behind the composition of *Pictures at an Exhibition*. Mussorgsky was very close friends with the architect and artist, Viktor Hartmann. Viktor died young (he was only 39!) and unexpectedly in 1873. Mussorgsky isolated himself in grief. A mutual friend of theirs encouraged Mussorgsky to come to an exhibit (or gallery show!) of 400 of Hartmann's paintings gathered in his honor at the Academy of Fine Arts in St. Petersburg, Russia. Mussorgsky was moved seeing all his friends' art and wrote *Pictures at an Exhibition* based on his experience walking through the galleries. In total, *Pictures at an Exhibition* featured 10 works of Hartmann's art – 10 musical movements – plus promenades representing the composer's walking from painting to painting, reflecting about what he just saw...

### SLIDE 4:

This image shows us what a room in the Academy of Fine Arts may have looked like; here we see a gallery with works of art on the wall. Imagine walking through this room, looking at

everything. Have you ever been to an art museum or an art gallery? Mussorgsky looked at Hartmann's art and imagined what they might SOUND like if music could tell the story that Hartmann's paints tried to tell through color and shape...

**SLIDE 5:**

Here we see some Great Lakes Center for the Arts interns walking through an "exhibit" looking at art... have you ever visited an art museum or gallery? Do you like looking at different works of art? What kind of art do you like?

**SLIDE 6:**

Among the 400 works of Hartmann's art on display at the Exhibit in 1874, Mussorgsky featured 10, including: Ballet of the Unhatched Chicks; The Hut on Chicken Legs (Baba Yaga); and The Great Gate of Kiev.

What do you think these paintings/drawings looked like? Imagine them in your mind... get a good picture of each...

**SLIDE 7:**

Teacher: Have students match the image to the title. Notice the chicken legs from Baba Yaga; if interested and if time, share a little about the story of Baba Yaga, which comes from Russian folklore.

Baba Yaga: She is an ogress (that's the female version of an ogre like Shrek!) – kind of like a witch – who lives in the forest in a continually spinning hut built on chicken legs! She guards the fountains of the waters of life (which sounds like a good thing, right?!), but she steals, cooks, and eats children!

**SLIDE 8:**

"Promenade" meanings "walking about in public." Mussorgsky wrote "Promenades" to represent the time he spent walking between works of art in the Exhibit. Each Promenade is intended to help us move from one work of art (and musical movement) to the next, and so each Promenade reflects a little bit about the emotions and/or feelings that the gallery-goer has after viewing the last work of art or approaching the next work of art.

Here we see a video clip of Helen, an intern from the Great Lakes Center for the Arts and a REALLY good flute player at Michigan State, PROMENADING about in our theater while she plays something from *Pictures at an Exhibition*.

**SLIDE 9:**

People have imagined what a ballet of unhatched chicks might look like! Here are a couple versions that other people have created. If YOU were to be inspired to choreograph (or create) a dance around the painting, *Ballet of the Unhatched Chicks*, what would YOUR DANCE look like? Try it if you're not chicken! Gug gug!

**SLIDE 10:**

Winnie the Pooh needs help... Do your own dance as an unhatched chick if you dare – right there at your seat!

**SLIDE 11:**

This is an aerial (from the sky!) picture of the Great Lakes Center for the Arts! It is only 5 years old (that's really young for a building)! The water you see is Lake Michigan, and the Center is located in Bay Harbor, which is a resort community just a few miles west of downtown Petoskey.

**SLIDE 12:**

This video gives you a little idea of what it will be like when you come visit the Center! (And we hear they LOVE it when you visit!)

**SLIDE 13:**

You're invited to dress up like someone who lived in the later 1800s (that's in the Victorian Era, in terms of fashion). Anyone who comes dressed up in Victorian fashion will be eligible for one of a few prizes we look forward to giving away!

**SLIDE 14:**

Staff at the Center are busy getting the theater ready for you! And they said they cannot wait to welcome you to Mussorgsky in Miniature – *Pictures at an Exhibition*: A Masterpiece in Narrative Style!

**[[SLIDE 15 begins the POST-PERFORMANCE slides]]**

**SLIDES 15 and 16:**

**Some discussion questions for you to generate reflection and application with students after the show.**

**SLIDES 17 – 21** present 4 different activity options to do with your students, based on your time and interests as the teacher.

**SLIDE 17:**

While Mussorgsky saw art and then used music to convey his feelings and experience, we're going to try to do just the reverse! Let's listen to music (teacher chooses in advance and has ready!) and then draw what we're hearing or what the music makes us think about!

**SLIDE 18:**

There's a very funny little video that shows some very real differences between Victorian kids' names and what we'd think was acceptable today!

But in the bigger picture, how was life in the Victorian era (late 1800s) different from your life? How is life the same? What about differences and similarities between Russia and the United States in the late 1800s? This is a great challenge for young researchers, readers, and data collectors!

**SLIDE 19:**

Poetry is a creative and powerful way to express yourself! Watch this boy share his poem in the American Youth Poetry Slam...

Could you write a poem about what it is like to be Baba Yaga or one of those unhatched chicks?! Be creative! Use your imagination! Write something fun and wonderful that shares a special surprise or story!

**SLIDE 20:**

These are pictures of the ACTUAL building in which Mussorgsky walked through the exhibit of his friend's artwork! You can see an older picture of the building (black and white) and two newer pictures – look how it changed! The building is called the Imperial Academy of Arts, and it is in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Now let's look in a modern American Art Museum...

**SLIDE 21:**

Here's a video clip of an art museum experience – by and for kids!

Try building your own art museum or gallery! What would it look like? Create a diorama or a 3D model either of the art museum of your imagination or of Mussorgsky's Imperial Academy from St. Petersburg!

**SLIDE 22:**

Why are the arts important?

Discuss with students the various reasons why the arts matter in their lives and in the lives of their community. Ask if they have more reasons to add!

**[[END OF SLIDESHOW]]**

We hope this curriculum helped make your experience with Mussorgsky in Miniature deeper, richer, and more relevant to school! Be sure to click on the "button" that says "Art That Inspired" to read the TSO's program notes and to see pictures of the actual art that inspired Modest Mussorgsky to write the music, *Pictures at an Exhibition*.

You will find two additional buttons that will take you to original content created by Interlochen Public Radio (IPR) specifically for this very cool event - lucky you!

One of the buttons will take you to IPR's Classical Sprouts podcast, where you will have direct access to two podcasts created just for you! You can also find a button that will take you to the landing page for Kids Commute, a Classical IPR daily radioshow for kids that is airing a whole week of episodes related to this program (October 30 - November 3)! Be sure to check out all that the amazing folks at IPR created with you in mind. We all hope you love listening!

***Thanks for joining us on this musical storytelling journey! We hope to see you soon at the Center for another opportunity to educate through the arts!***

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