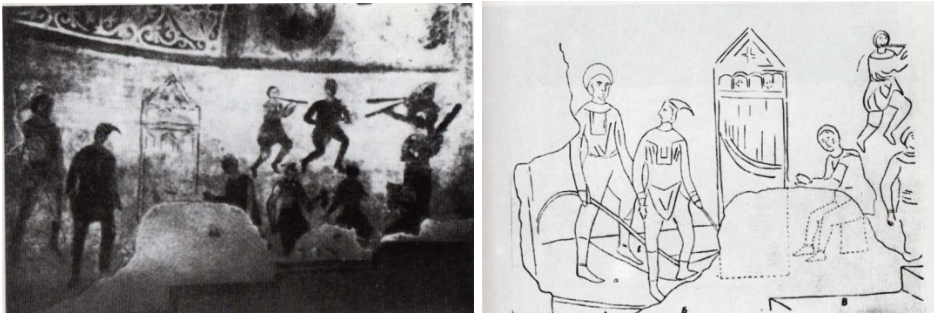


AN OVERVIEW OF RUSSIAN ORGAN MUSIC

Outline

Paradox of organ history in Russia

1. Russian Orthodox Church
 - A. Connection with Western European Church development
 - B. Unique use of only singing a cappella (no musical instruments are allowed)
2. In Russia, the Organ appeared in the 11th century from Byzantium as a part of their court ceremonies. Rich conditions, theatrical effects, and importance of organ music of Byzantine court life influenced the Russians.
 - A. Music signals used as indication of the rules for the feast
 - B. Salutatory exclamations in honor of the royalty
 - C. Early compositions for *gusli* (multi-string plucked instrument), organ, flute, cymbals, and trumpet
3. Earliest evidence: fresco “Skomorokhes” (Buffoons) discovered in 1843 at Saint Sofia Cathedral in Kiev (Kievan Rus’ as a part of Russia from 9th to 13th centuries)



4. Organ development slowed during 240-year of Tartar/Mongolian invasion in the 13th century. Moscow becomes a new cultural center of Russia in the 15th century
 - A. The first professional organist and organ builder, Johann Salvator, (an Italian monk) served in a Moscow, Russian Court at the end of the 15th century
 - B. Dutch organ builder Gottlib Eilhoff served for the Moscow court starting in 1578

5. 1613-1917: reign of the Romanov dynasty included ten emperors and empresses. During this time secular use of organ in Russia flourished.
 - A. Ten professional organists served at the Moscow court in 1617
 - B. 1613: Establishment of a “Poteshny Regiment”, an amusing regiment of boy soldiers was especially popular under Peter I, and military actions were accompanied with organ music
 - C. Folk tunes are often used in organ music, which was not supported by the Russian Orthodox Church. In 1648 a decree prohibiting the use of any musical instruments at church is proclaimed.
 - D. Simon Gutovsky, Polish organist and organ builder, served at the Russian court in the second half of the 17th century for 30 years. He invented the Russian printing press in 1677 and the first sheet music in Russia was printed

6. The age of Enlightenment and Peter I (1682-1725): victory of secular music and art, powerful instrumental ensembles. Solemn processions were accompanied with wind ensemble, kettle-drum, and organ
 - A. Peter I brought many scientists, masters, and handicraftsmen from Europe. Several Catholic and Protestant churches were built, including two with *Arp Schnitger* organs
 - B. Failed organ project for the Moscow Kremlin Assumption Cathedral inspired by the *Kasparini* organ at St. Peter and Paul Church in Göerlitz, Germany
 - C. In 1856 there were 2,280 Catholic and Protestant churches in Russia with 114 *Walker*, and 42 *Sauer* organs.

7. New phase of organ history: first professional composer Mikhail Glinka, first Russian operas - *A Life for the Tzar* (1836) and *Ruslan and Ludmila* (1837-1842).
 - A. Glinka studied at Milan Conservatory and in Berlin, met Mendelssohn, Berlioz, and Liszt.
 - B. Musical salon of Madam Viardot in Paris with *Cavaillé-Coll* organ, many Russian musicians were there. Many songs and romances by Glinka were arranged for organ and voice.

First conservatories

8. In 1862, St. Petersburg Rimsky-Korsakov Conservatory was established. It was the first professional music education institution in Russia.
 - A. The first organ professor, Henry Schtil, taught classes at St. Peter and Paul Lutheran Cathedral on a three-manual 63 stops *Walker* organ with a double pedal-board. In 1897 a three-manual, 46 stops *Walker* was installed at the conservatory in St. Petersburg.
 - B. Piotr Ilich Tchaikovsky was one of the first students at the conservatory. He graduated in 1865 with a major in composition, orchestral conducting, and piano with a minor in organ. He used organ in small episodes in his two operas.
 - C. The next organ professor, Jacque Khandshin, was followed by Isaiah Braudo (teaching from 1923 to 1970.)

9. In 1866, the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory was established.
 - A. The first organ professor, Edward Langer, started teaching in 1885 when the conservatory received two German organs by *Ladegast*.
 - B. Alexander Gedicke, professor and founder of the Soviet organ school, taught at the conservatory from 1923 to 1957. He composed four operas, three symphonies, and several concertos: including one for organ. He also composed numerous preludes and fugues, as well as characteristic pieces for organ.
 - C. The next organ professor, Leonid Roysman, taught from 1957 to 1989. Many of his students are currently teaching at Moscow conservatory and throughout Russia.

Organs at Moscow Conservatory and throughout Russia

10. Moscow Conservatory: Three-manual, 52 stops *Cavaillé-Coll* organ at the Great Hall, no major reconstruction, still has a mechanical key and organ-stop actions.
 - A. Last project of *Aristid Cavaillé-Coll*, after which he died in 1899. Widor was a main consultant and gave the first performance, playing his *Fifth Symphony* for the first time in Russia.
 - B. The conservatory's president, Vasily Safonov, had originally intended to purchase a *Walker* organ. However, Widor (while traveling throughout Russia in 1896) suggested a *Cavaillé-Coll* organ. Russians visited *Cavaillé-Coll's* organs at St. Sulpice and Trocadero.
 - C. The *Cavaillé-Coll* organ won the gold medal and *Grand Prix* in the *Russian Section* of the *International Exhibition* in Paris in 1900.

11. Moscow Conservatory: a neo-Baroque, two-manual, 30 stop German organ by *Alexander Schuke* is in the Small Hall (built in 1959.)
12. *Moscow Philharmonic Tchaikovsky Hall* has a four-manual organ: *Rieger-Kloss*, built in 1959.
13. *Klais and Glatter/Getz* four-manual 84 stops organ is at the *Moscow International House of Music*, build in 2005.
14. *Moscow Catholic Cathedral of Immaculate Conception* has a four-manual, 72 stop Swiss organ *Kuhn*. It was moved to this location in 2002 after being located in the *Basel Evangelic Cathedral* since 1955.
15. *The Palace of Arts* in Kondopoga, Karelia Region has two Dutch organs by *Bacarath* in one concert hall.
16. *Kaliningrad Philharmonic Society* has a three-manual, 44 stop *Riger-Kloss* organ.

Future

- Increasing interest in over with the years:
 - o Secular organ music can be heard at many concert halls and some Catholic and Protestant churches.
 - o Several international organ competitions, such as *Tariverdiev*, *Gedicke*, *Kikta*, and *Braudo*, attract many participants from Europe and the USA.
 - o Concert life is very rich, especially in Moscow where many European and American organists perform regularly.