

Pushkin, Part II

Music, Opera, Illustrations,
Sets and Costumes

Outline

- *The Tale of Tsar Saltan* (film)
- "The Flight of the Bumblebee" (from *The Tale of Tsar Saltan*)
- Art: Sets and costumes

Orientalism

- Romanticism
- Caucasus

The Caucasus Region



“Tsar Saltan (tale)”

- 1831
- Fairy tale features to watch for:
 - Structure
 - Motifs
 - One-dimensionality and abstraction of characters
 - Textual refrains (repetition)
 - Critical approaches
 - “The Wicked Sisters” (Afanas’ev 356–60)

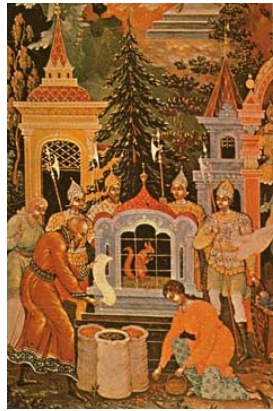
Film: *The Tale of Tsar Saltan*

- Director: Aleksandr Ptushko (1900–73)
- 1966, Mosfil’m Studios
- “The Mosquito”
 - Merchants tell king about squirrel
 - Wicked sisters tell of thirty-three knights
 - Mosquito stings two sisters on face and nose, which swell, scaring everyone at court
 - Film run backwards for special effects
 - Costumes

Tsar Saltan (Palekh)



Tsar Saltan
(Palekh, detail)



“He had heard the last girl’s pledge
Standing hid behind the hedge.”

Tsar Saltan
(Bilibin 1)



Tsar Saltan (Bilibin 2)

(Merchants visit Tsar Saltan)



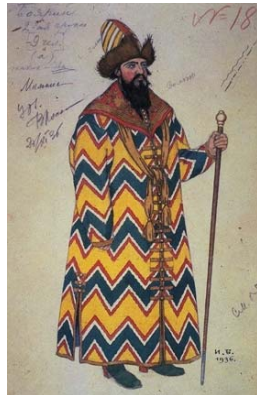
Tsar Saltan
(Bilibin 3)

“And behold! To his amaze.
A great city met his gaze.”



Tsar Saltan
(Bilibin 4)

(The Boyar)



The Tale of Tsar Saltan (Opera)

- Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov (1844–1908)
 - Opera (1899–1900), Suite (1903)
- “The Flight of the Bumble Bee”
 - Prelude to Act III
 - Prince Guidon is turned into a bumble bee and returns to his father’s court
 - Inexplicably *not* included in the 1903 Suite

What to Listen For

- Rapid semitones (musical half steps, notes close in pitch) simulate flight of bumble bee
 - Constant, fast, even rhythm represents the buzzing drone of the wings
 - Rising and falling line depicts the haphazard path of bee flight (as opposed to the more direct flight of a bird)
- (For music majors: chromatic moto perpetuo)

The Golden Cockerel

- 1834
- Washington Irving (1783–1859), “The Legend of the Arabian Astronomer,” *Tales of the Alhambra* (1832)
- Opera by Rimsky-Korsakov (1844–1908)
 - Composed 1906–07
 - Production prohibited by censors
 - Premier 1909 (after the composer’s death)

The Golden Cockerel (Bilibin 1)



The Golden Cockerel (Bilibin 2)

(Sorcerer presents the golden cockerel to Tsar Dadon)



The Golden Cockerel (Bilibin 3)

(Tsar Dadon stands before the Shemakha Queen)



The Golden Cockerel (Bilibin 4)

(The Palace of Tsar Dadon)



The Golden Cockerel (Bilibin 5)



Tsar Dadon



The Shemakha Queen

The Golden Cockerel (Bilibin 6)



The Tsar's Son Afron



Slave Girl

The Golden Cockerel (Bilibin 7)

(The Tent of the Shemakha Queen)



The Golden Cockerel (Bilibin 8)

(The Kingdom of Tsar Dadon. Town Square)



The Golden Cockerel (Goncharova)