

## IVAN KRYZHANOVSKY

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Here is a Russian composer that is forgotten and yet all of his works which I have seen are impeccably crafted, attractive and durable.

As he died in 1924 his music is out of copyright and I have included some of his scores to encourage performers to take it up.

Ivan Ivanovich Kryzhanovsky was born in Kyiv (Kiev) on 8 March 1867. (Kiev is about 469 miles from Moscow). At his birth, Balakirev was 31, Lyapanov 28, Tschaikovsky 27, Mussorgsky 26, Rimsky Korsakov 24 and Glazunov was 2. Rachmaninov was born when Kryzhanovsky was six, Gliere was born eight years after Kryzhanovsky and Stravinsky was born in 1882. Glinka had been dead for 20 years. Tchaikovsky was writing his Symphony no 1 when Kryzhanovsky was born.

He trained to be a physician and worked in the laboratory of Ivan Pavlov (1849-1936) with such investigations as the centrifugal nerves of the heart and the gastric functions of dogs. Pavlov highly praised the younger man.

Kryzhanovsky also studied the violin and music theory at Kyiv Conservatory and studied composition with Rimsky Korsakov graduating from St Petersburg Conservatory. He wrote two books on music namely *The Physiological Basis of Piano technique* and *The Biological Basis of the Evolution of Music* published in 1928, four years after his death. He died in Leningrad on 9 December 1924

He was a member of the Belaieff circle.

Among his pupils were Myaskovsky and Prokofiev was introduced to St Petersburg by Kryzhanovsky.

His Opus 1 is a Theme and Variations for piano. Opus 2 is a Sonata for cello and piano in G minor of 1903, a very competent piece with the middle movement a Romance in D. The Violin Sonata Op 4 is mainly in E minor although the first movement has five changes of key which makes the music even more interesting. The middle movement is a Largo of some beauty rooted in B. The exciting finale is in E minor.

Rimsky Korsakov is the dedicatee of the Romance Op 5 for violin and piano which is an andantino in F and in ABA form the B section is in B flat.

The Violin Concerto Op 10 is a masterpiece and was dedicated to Otokar Seveck. The opening allegro begins keyless and goes into E minor A flat G flat before returning to the beginning, There is quadruple stopping and a breathtaking cadenza. The slow movement is a gorgeous Largo predominantly in D flat and the exciting finale is in E.

Seveck was born in Bohemia in 1852. He was a brilliant violinist and for about 14 years was professor of violin at Prague Conservatory but, before that, he taught at the Imperial Russian Music School, Kiev from 1875 1892

The piano Valse de Concert Op 14 was written for Frau W A Ossowskaja and the Valse Impromptu is a work based on Johann Strauss's limited style.

The Four Songs Op 19 is very Russian and the last song is in seven flats. Would it not have been easier to read in B?

The massive Piano Trio in D Op 22 was written about 1921 and is in four movements, an allegro moderato, an andante in G minor, a scherzo marked Vivace in A and the finale is another allegro moderato in D.

There is a report of a Piano Concerto.

[\*PDF of Theme and Variations Op 1\*](#)

[\*PDF of Cello Sonata Op 2\*](#)

[\*PDF of Violin Sonata Op 4\*](#)

[\*PDF Violin Concerto Op 10 \(piano reduction\)\*](#)

[\*PDF Piano Trio Op 22\*](#)

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My thanks to Peter Cook for introducing me to this composer.