Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov (nee-koh-lie RIM-skee KOR-suh-kawf) 1844 - 1908

• Nikolai was from a musically talented naval family.

• He began piano lessons at six, but his heart was drawn to his family’s tradition of naval service.

• He entered the College of Naval Cadets at 12 where he was also able to continue music studies.

• When he was 18 he began a military tour that lasted 2 ½ years.

• Rimsky-Korsakov eventually left the military and became a full-time musician.

• His study of all the musical instruments and the different sounds they could make, gave him a reputation as an excellent orchestrator.

• Rimsky-Korsakov composed 17 operas, 16 choral works, 31 orchestral pieces, 27 song collections, 15 chamber works, 14 piano pieces, and edited/completed works by others.

Listen to Flight of the Bumblebee. What does it remind you of?