



Five Operas and a Symphony: Word and Music in Russian Culture (Russian Literature and Thought Series)

Boris Gasparov

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In this eagerly anticipated book, Boris Gasparov gazes through the lens of music to find an unusual perspective on Russian cultural and literary history. He discusses six major works of Russian music from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, showing the interplay of musical texts with their literary and historical sources within the ideological and cultural contexts of their times. Each musical work becomes a tableau representing a moment in Russian history, and together the works form a coherent story of ideological and aesthetic trends as they evolved in Russia from the time of Pushkin to the rise of totalitarianism in the 1930s. Gasparov discusses Glinka's *Ruslan and Ludmilla* (1842), Mussorgsky's *Boris Godunov* (1871) and *Khovanshchina* (1881), Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin* (1878) and *The Queen of Spades* (1890), and Shostakovich's Fourth Symphony (1934). Offering new interpretations to enhance our understanding and appreciation of these important works, Gasparov also demonstrates how Russian music and cultural history illuminate one another.

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