

18 Modest Mussorgskij  
Kak vo gorode bylo vo Kazani (*Boris Godunov*)

Kak vo gorode bylo vo Kazani,  
Groznyj car' piroval, da veselilsja.  
On tatarej bil neščadno,  
čtob im bylo ne povadno  
vdol' po Rusi guljat'.

Car' podchodom podchodil  
da pod Kazan' gorodok,  
on podkopy podkopal  
da pod Kazanku reku.  
Kak tatare-to po gorodu počaživajut,  
na carja Ivana-to pogljadyvajut,  
zli tatarove.

Groznyj car' ot zakručinilsja,  
on povetil golovušku na pravoe plečo.  
Už kak stal car' puškarej szyvat',  
puškarej vse zažigal'sčikov!  
Zadymilasja svečka vosku jarova,  
podchodil molodoj puškar'-ot k bočičke.  
A i s porochom-to bočka zakružilasja,  
oj! po podkopam pokatilasja,  
da i chlopnula.

Zavopili,  
zagaldili zli tatarove,  
blagim matom zalivalisja.  
Poleglo tatarovej t'ma t'muščaja,  
poleglo ich sorok tysjačej,  
i tri tysjači.  
Takto vo gorode bylo, vo Kazani ... Eh!

It was once in the town of Kazan,  
when the Terrible Tsar celebrated and had fun.  
Ruthlessly, he beat the Tatars,  
so they lost the desire  
to stroll all across Russia.

Marching, the Tsar approached  
the little town of Kazan,  
in secret ways he crossed  
the river Kazanka.  
The way the tartars pace along,  
on that Tsar Ivan keeps a wary eye,  
on the evil Tatars.

The Terrible Tsar started to fret,  
he leaned his head against his right shoulder.  
And so he started calling the gunners,  
the gunners, the burners of everything!  
When the candle wax started to get on fire,  
a young gunner approached the barrel.  
And the powder barrel was rolling,  
oj! rolled through the tunnel,  
and exploded.

They started screaming,  
blustering, those evil Tatars,  
cursing terribly.  
Countless Tartars perished,  
forty thousand were killed,  
and three thousand.  
So it happened in the town, in Kazan ... Eh!