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BRIDGING RURAL TRADITIONS: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF RUSSIAN AND ROMANIAN FOLK INFLUENCES IN CLASSICAL MUSIC

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Abstract: *This study investigates the rural folk traditions of Russia and Romania and their influence on classical music development in both regions. Through a comparative analysis of representative compositions, the research highlights how Russian and Romanian folk elements—such as modal melodies, asymmetric rhythms, and storytelling structures—have shaped the musical language of classical composers.*

• Introduction

This study investigates the integration of rural folk traditions into classical music through a comparative lens, focusing on two emblematic composers: Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky from Russia and George Enescu from Romania. While separated by geography and cultural context, both composers drew inspiration from their nations' rural musical heritage, using folk elements not only to enrich their compositions but also to express a deeper sense of national identity.

• Material and method

This study employs a comprehensive and multidisciplinary methodology designed to explore in depth the relationships between Russian and Romanian folk traditions and their artistic reinterpretation in the works of Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky and George Enescu. Drawing on a combination of musicological analysis, historical contextualization, and ethnographic inquiry, the research seeks to provide a nuanced and holistic understanding of how traditional folk elements were absorbed, transformed, and reimagined within these two national contexts.



• Results and discussions

The comparative analysis reveals that both Russian and Romanian folk traditions occupy central yet distinct roles in shaping national musical identity, as reflected in the works of Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky and George Enescu. Although both composers drew inspiration from the vernacular idioms of their respective homelands, their approaches reveal fundamentally different aesthetic intentions, cultural functions, and philosophical relationships to tradition.

• Conclusions

This comparative study offers a nuanced perspective on the differing methodologies through which Russian and Romanian folk traditions have been integrated into the realm of classical composition, as exemplified by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky and George Enescu.

