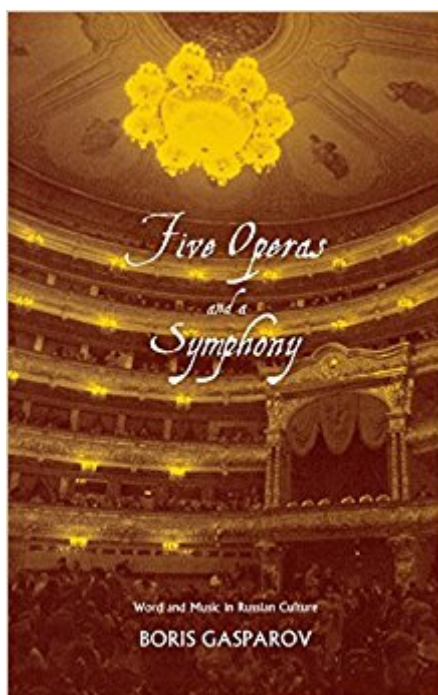


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# Five Operas And A Symphony: Word And Music In Russian Culture (Russian Literature And Thought Series)



## Synopsis

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.

## Book Information

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erudition and mastery of both fields are awe-inspiring, and one hopes he will continue to publish on the subject. . . . A particular familiarity with the subject matter allows Gasparov to narrate with a sense of authority rarely encountered in such interdisciplinary studies. . . . Gasparov reaffirms the significance in Russian culture, and his refreshing approach is to analyze musical works as complements rather than accompaniments to their literary counterparts." Tony H. Lin, *Slavic and East European Journal* (Tony H. Lin *Slavic and East European Journal*)

In this highly original view of six nineteenth- and twentieth-century works of Russian music, Boris Gasparov shows the fascinating interplay of music and cultural history. Each musical work—from Glinka's *Ruslan and Ludmilla* to Shostakovich's *Fourth Symphony*—becomes a tableau representing a moment in Russian history and reflecting cultural trends.

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