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B.A. in Music Senior Capstone Projects

Student Scholarly Activity

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12-9-2019

## Understanding the Cultural and Nationalistic Impacts of the *moguchaya kuchka*

Austin M. Doub

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THE CEDARVILLE UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF  
MUSIC AND WORSHIP

PRESENTS THE

SENIOR PROJECT  
PRESENTATION  
OF  
AUSTIN DOUB

UNDERSTANDING  
THE CULTURAL AND NATIONALISTIC IMPACTS  
OF THE *MOBUCHAYA KUCHKA*

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2019  
3:30 P.M.

CENTER FOR BIBLICAL  
AND THEOLOGICAL STUDIES  
ROOM 103



## ABSTRACT

This paper explores Russian culture beginning in the mid-nineteenth century as the leading group of composers and musicians known as the *moguchaya kuchka*, or The Mighty Five, sought to influence Russian culture and develop a "pure" school of Russian music amid rampant westernization. Comprised of César Cui, Alexander Borodin, Mily Balakirev, Modest Mussorgsky, and Nikolay Rimsky-Korsakov, this group of inspired musicians opposed westernization and supported Official Nationalism by the incorporation of folklore, local village traditions, and promotion of their Tsar as a supreme political leader. In particular, the works of Balakirev, Cui, and Mussorgsky established cultural pride and contributed to Russian nationalism. Through studying the works and cultural context of these three influential composers, one can gain both a better understanding of the essence of Russian Official Nationalism in the nineteenth century and an enriched appreciation for the prevalent Russian musical styles and compositional techniques that were employed to achieve a unique "Russian" sound.

Austin has been advised in this presentation by  
Sandra Yang, Ryan Behan, and Kevin Sims.

This project is presented in partial fulfillment  
of the Bachelor of Arts in music degree.

*No flash photography, please.  
Please turn off all cell phones.*

