THEODORE AKIMENKO

David C F Wright DMus

There are so many composers that we know very little about and despite painful research no new information comes to light thus sentencing some composers almost to oblivion.

Probably nowhere is this more prevalent than in Russia. There are hundreds, perhaps thousands of composers about which little is known and, consequently, they are forgotten even if ever remembered at all. And some such composers wrote works of note although others may have written the usual and conventional music of the time.

Malcolm Ballan of Pianophilia has worked industrially on Soviet and eastern European music mainly for the piano and provided much welcome information and his noble efforts are worthy of our gratitude and admiration which is hereby acknowledged.

Theodore Akimenko is one such case. He was a Ukrainian composer, teacher and pianist only remembered, if at all, as being Stravinsky's first composition teacher.

When Akimenko was born, Tchaikovsky was 35, Balakirev was 39, Rimsky Korsakov was 31, Liadov was 20 and Glinka had been dead for about 20 years.

Akimenko was born in Kharkov on 20 February 1876 and, as a boy, sang in the Court Chapel Choir. He graduated from St Petersburg conservatory in 1900 after studying with Balakirev, Liadov and Rimsky Korsakov.

His first appointment was as director of music at Tbilisi music school from 1901 to 1903. Thereafter, he lived in France until 1906. Of the next few years we seem to know nothing about him but, in 1915, he was a lecturer at St Petersburg Conservatory and, from 1919 to 1923, was a professor there. In 1924 to 1928, he was Chairman of the Higher Ukrainian Pedagogical Institute in Prague and conducted the Institute Choir and concentrated on being a pianist.

In 1929, he settled in Paris where he stayed for the rest of his life. Along with his compositions, he wrote a book on harmony published in Prague in 1926.

He was in Paris when Hitler invaded France in 1940 and lamented the Nazis invading the Ukraine the following year.

He died in Paris on 3 January 1945. He was 68.

Works include

String Trio in C minor	Op 7
Eclogue for cor anglais and piano	Op 12
Romance for violin and piano	Op 13
Idyll for flute and piano	Op 14
Berceuse for violin and piano	Op 15 dedicated to Auer
Three pieces for piano	Op 16

Petit ballad for clarinet and piano	Op 19
Lyric Poem for orchestra	Op 20
5 Pieces for piano	Op 21
Consolation for piano	Op 22
5 Preludes	Op 23
Uranie for piano	Op 25
Reminiscence mazurka for piano	Op 26
Fantasie in G sharp Minor	Op 26b
3 Pieces for piano	Op 27
Au coin de feu for piano	Op 28
Suite for piano	Op 28b (later orchestrated)
Romance for violin and piano	Op 29
21 pieces for piano	Op 30
3 pieces for violin and piano Op 31	
Violin Sonata no 1	Op 32
Two Idylls fantastique	Op 33
Jeux : 2 characteristic pieces	Op 34
3 dances idyllic	Op 35
Piece for violin and piano	Op 38
Recits s’une ame reveuse 12 pieces	Op 39
3 little scherzos for piano	Op 40
Technical studies for piano in two books	Op 40b
4 pieces for four hands	Op 41
Reves Etoiles	Op 42
Pages de Piese Fantastique nine pieces	Op 43
Nocturne in D for strings	(also Op 43)
Sonata fantastique no 1 for piano	Op 44 1910
Two Esquisses for piano	Op 44
10 Preludes for piano	Op 46
Rondo fantastique in B	Op 46b
3 Pieces for piano	Op 48
Onze preludes characteristic for piano	Op 49
2 Pieces for piano	Op 49b
3 Pieces for piano	Op 53
5 Pieces fro piano	Op 55
6 Preludes for piano	Op 56
3 Danses idyllistic for piano	Op 57
Album picturesque 8 pieces for piano	Op 59
Sonata fantastique no 2	Op 60
3 Pieces for piano	Op 60b
Tableaux Idvlliques five pieces for four hands	Op 62
Caprice des harmonies 21 small pieces	Op 62b
Meditteraenen impressions for piano	Op 65
6 Ukrainian Poems for four hands	Op 71
2 pieces for piano	Op 72
2 Mysterious nocturnes for piano	Op 73
Suite fantastique for piano	Op 74
Suite pastoral for orchestra	Op 78 (later arranged for piano)
6 easy pieces for piano	Op 93

Items without opus numbers, all for piano unless otherwise stated

Divertimento in D minor	1909

Etude in B	1909
Valse de Libellules	1909
Ballad	1924
3 pieces on Ukrainian themes	1925
3 pieces	1925
La Reve Ballad	1926
6 Ukrainian poems	1927
Chant printame	1930
Danse romantique	1930
Petits tableaux pitteresques for the young	1934
Petite pastorale	1941
Solitude	1941
Impromptu matinales	1942
10 simple pieces	1942
Fugue in B minor	1942
Pages sentimentals 4 pieces	1942
Lento for four hands	1942
4 Easy pieces	
18 piano pieces	
In the gardens of Luxemburg	
Under the arches of Notre Dame	
Theme and variations for four hands	

Poem for piano and orchestra
Concertino for piano and orchestra no 1
Concertino for piano and orchestra no 2

The word pieces is the word morceaux used in the scores by this composer.

PDF Berceuse for violin and piano

PDF Nocturne for string orchestra

PDF Piano Sonata no 1

PDF Piano Sonata no 2

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