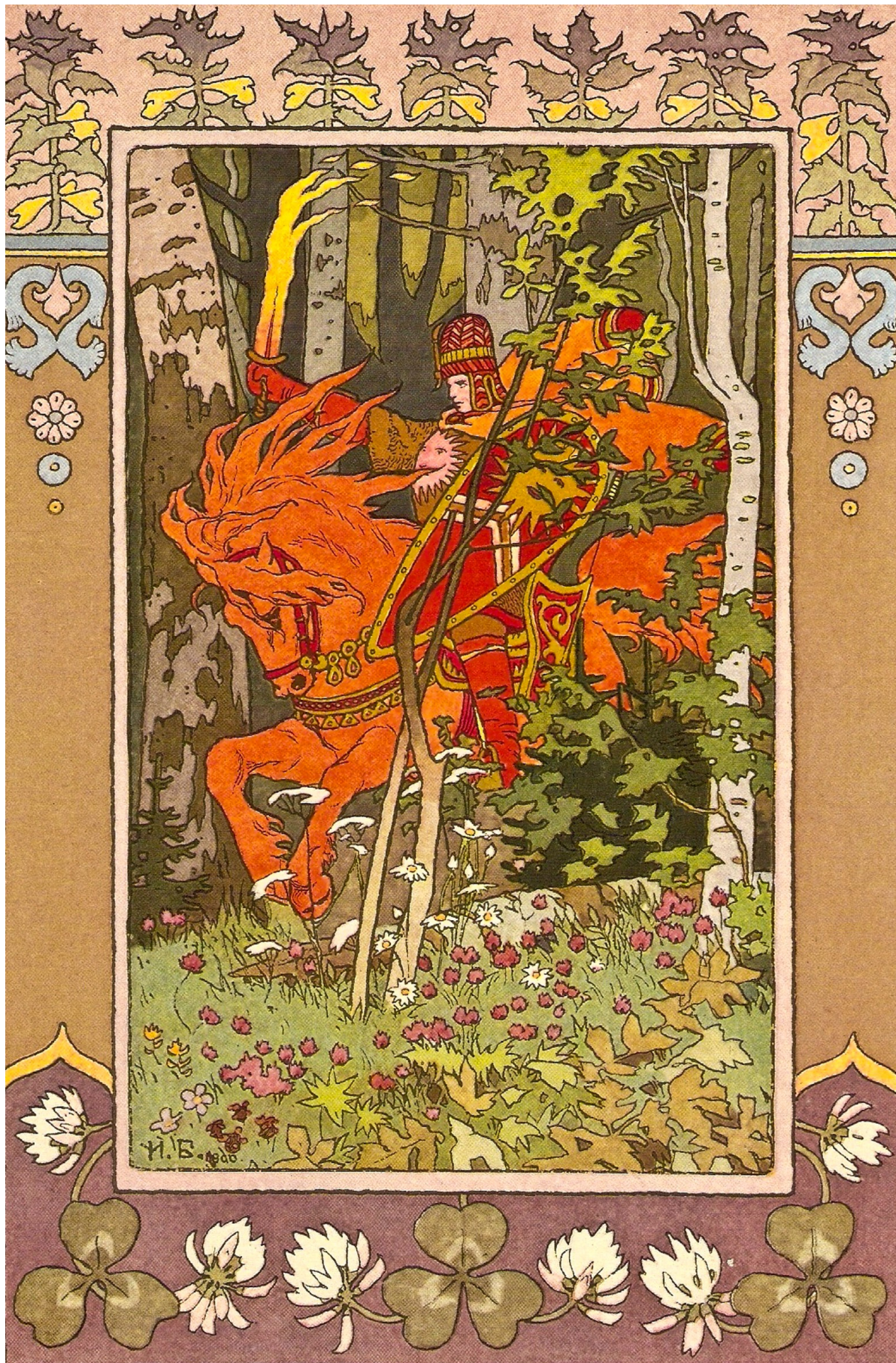


# PRINCE IVAN & VASILISA

ELENA ROUSSANOVA

## CONCERT BAND

*SECOND EDITION*



RUSSA NOVA PUBLISHERS

(ASCAP)

## PROGRAM NOTES

Musicians and audiences will delight in this music depicting the classic Russian fable of PRINCE IVAN AND VASILISA. This tale closely parallels the familiar folk story Snow White.

Prince Ivan is young, handsome, and an accomplished archer and hunter. The beautiful Vasilisa lives with her father and jealous stepmother. When her father, a tradesman, is away traveling, her stepmother makes an arrangement with a witch to cast a spell that turns Vasilisa into a bush with beautiful pink flowers and long sharp thorns. The witch, however, tells the stepmother that if a man of royal lineage, possessing a true heart, cuts himself on the thorns of this bush and his blood touches it, the bush will turn back into the beautiful Vasilisa. The stepmother then tells the gardener to carry the bush (with metal gloves for protection) to the top of a faraway mountain. The lazy gardener carries the bush only to the foot of the mountain.

Time passes until Prince Ivan, while hunting, shoots one of his arrows into the bush. While retrieving his arrow, he cuts himself and spills his blood on the bush. Immediately, the bush changes back into the beautiful Vasilisa. When Prince Ivan sees Vasilisa, it is truly love at first sight. The prince takes Vasilisa to his castle far away, and they are married.

Some time later, Vasilisa's father is traveling in the area and comes to the prince's castle to ask for lodging. He and Vasilisa discover each other. The father is so thankful to know that his daughter lives. Vasilisa tells her father of the evil actions of her stepmother, whereupon the father returns home and casts out the stepmother. Prince Ivan and Vasilisa live happily ever after.

## NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

This music is composed in ABA form. The beginning section, Prince Ivan's theme, is in C minor and should be played very energetically in both the melody and accompaniment parts. The B section, in E-flat Major at measure 69, introduces Vasilisa's theme. It should be performed in a very light, dolce, legato, almost floating melodic style. The section beginning at measure 93, marked più mosso, is developmental with exchanging sequences building momentum, poco a poco accelerando, before a molto ritardando leads into the climax at measure 119, the return of the A theme. This theme should now reflect a different character, played very strongly in a molto espressivo style. The coda, beginning in measure 151, is the epilogue of the story and relaxes to the end.

I hope you enjoy my musical portrayal of the Russian fable, PRINCE IVAN AND VASILISA.

*Elena Roussanova*

## CONCERT BAND

### INSTRUMENTATION

Piccolo  
2 Flute in C  
Oboe  
Bassoon  
3 Clarinet in B ♭  
Alto Clarinet in E ♭  
Bass Clarinet in B ♭  
2 Alto Saxophone in E ♭  
Tenor Saxophone in B ♭  
Baritone Saxophone in E ♭

3 Trumpet in B ♭  
2 Horn in F  
3 Trombone  
Baritone  
Tuba

**Mallets**  
Marimba,  
Xylophone

### Timpani

**Percussion**  
Woodblock,  
Tambourine,  
Finger Cymbals,  
Snare Drum,  
Suspended Cymbal



“The Red Horseman” by IVAN BILIBIN (front cover)  
From a fairy tale book illustration “Vasilisa the Beautiful” (1899-1900)