

Mother Moscow

Poem by FEODOR GLINKA (circa 1815)

English Version by
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Allegro (♩ = 120)

Soprano

Hail, thou won-drous moth-er - ci - ty, Thou dost hold with-in thy

Alto

f

Tenor

Hail, thou won-drous moth-er - ci - ty, Thou dost hold with-in thy

Bass

wall Town and vil - lage, cot and ham - let, King - ly pal-ace, prince - ly

wall Town and vil - lage, cot and ham - let, King - ly pal-ace, prince - ly

hall. Gir-dled round with fields of plen-ty, Deck'd with gar-dens dost thou

mf

hall. Gir-dled round with fields of plen-ty, Deck'd with gar-dens dost thou

hall. Gir-dled round with fields of plen-ty, Deck'd dost thou

lie; Gleam-ing tow-ers, gold-en church-es, Rise to greet the pil-grim's

lie; Gleam-ing tow-ers, gold-en church-es, Rise to greet the pil-grim's

lie;

eye! Clois-ters grave in moss-y gar-ments Wov-en by the hand of

eye! Clois-ters grave in moss-y gar-ments Wov-en by the hand of

Clois - - ters grave, ——— hal - - low'd by

time, End-less lanes and wind-ing high-ways Moth-er Mos-cow stands sub-

time, End-less lanes and wind-ing high-ways Moth-er Mos-cow stands sub-

time,

lime! Not by mor-tal mind con-ceiv-ed Slow-ly

lime! Not by mor-tal mind con-ceiv-ed Slow-ly

mor - tal

rose thy might-y frame; By the hum-ble stream that

rose thy might-y frame; By the hum-ble stream that

p

hum-ble

bore thee, Grew thy pow-er and thy fame.

bore thee, Grew thy pow-er and thy fame.

mf *f*

Ah! Who can shake its might-y hold?

Like a giant stands the Krem-lin;

Ah! the Kremlin; Who can shake its might-y hold?

Like a giant stands the Krem-lin;

f

Ah! Who can tear the crown of gold?

From the bel-fry of St. I-van

Ah!

From the bel-fry of St. I-van Who can tear the crown of gold?

From the bel-fry of St. I-van

Ah! Who can lift the Tsar of

Who can move the Tsar of Can - non? Who can lift the Tsar of

Ah! Who can lift the Tsar of

Who can move the Tsar of Can-non?

Bells? Who with-holds the si-lent tri-bute That the Krem - lin gate com-

Bells? Who with-holds the si-lent tri-bute That the Krem - lin gate com-

Who with-holds the si-lent tri-bute That the Krem - lin gate com-

pels? Grow thou on in end-less glo-ry, May thy splen-dor ne'er de-

pels? Grow thou on in end-less glo-ry, May thy splen-dor ne'er de-

part! Where a - mid the plain thou stand - est There beats Ho - ly Rus - sia's

part! Where a - mid the plain thou stand - est There beats Ho - ly Rus - sia's

heart! Grow thou on in end-less glo-ry, May thy splendor ne'er de-

heart! Grow thou on in end-less glo-ry, May thy splendor ne'er de-

heart! Grow thou on in end-less glo-ry, Ah!

part, Where amid the plains thou stand-est, There beats Ho-ly Rus-sia's

part, Where amid the plains thou stand-est, There beats Ho-ly Rus-sia's

heart. Grow thou on, Moth-er Mos-cow Hail!

heart. Grow thou on, Moth-er Mos-cow Hail!

Mother Moscow

Hail, thou wondrous mother-city!¹
 Thou dost hold within thy wall
 Town and village, cot and hamlet,
 Kingly palace, princely hall.

Girdled round with fields of plenty,
 Decked with gardens dost thou lie;
 Gleaming towers, golden churches
 Rise to greet the pilgrim's eye.

Cloisters grave in mossy garments
 Woven by the hand of Time,
 Endless lanes and winding highways—
 Mother Moscow stands sublime!

Not by mortal mind conceived,
 Slowly rose thy mighty frame;
 By the humble stream that bore thee
 Grew thy power and thy fame.

Like a giant stands the Kremlin;
 Who can shake its mighty hold?
 From the belfry of Saint Ivan²
 Who can tear the crown of gold?

Who can move the Tsar of Cannon?³
 Who can lift the Tsar of Bells?⁴
 Who withholds the silent tribute
 That the Kremlin gate compels?

Grow thou on in endless glory,
 May thy splendor ne'er depart!
 Where amid the plains thou standest
 There beats Holy Russia's heart.

Grow thou on
 Mother Moscow, Hail!

FEODOR GLINKA⁵ (written about 1815 after Napoleon's invasion of Russia)

English Version by
 Kurt Schindler & Deems Taylor.

1) „Matushka,” little mother, as a term of endearment, is used by the Russians for their oldest and most beloved cities and rivers: Volga-Matushka, Matushka-Kiev, Matushka-Moskvá.

2) „Ivan-Velikí,” the large bell-tower of the Kremlin, finished under Boris Godounoff in 1600.

3) „Tsar-Pushka,” a giant cannon, standing before the Armory Barracks inside the Kremlin, cast in the XVI century.

4) „Tsar-Kolokol,” the largest bell in the world, erected on a pedestal in the Square of the Tsars in the Kremlin. It was cast in 1735, and, being slightly cracked, has never been in actual use.

5) Not the well-known composer Glinka, but an older relative of his, whose poetic activity falls within the years 1810-20.