

**61 Полночь [Polnoch']** [Midnight], no. 2 of *Мелодекламация* [*Melodeklamatsii*], op. 32, 1919.

**Vladimir Ivanovich Rebikov** (1866-1920) was one of the most audacious and experimentally-inclined composers of his day. After composing in Romantic style for many years, in 1900 he wrote a manifesto on "musical psychography", began to experiment with less tonal harmonic vocabularies, and invented new musical forms, including "melomimics," "meloplastics," and "rhythmodeclamations," of which this work is an example. He is best known for his bizarre Expressionist chamber operas labelled "musico-psychological dramas."

Sung in Russian, translator unknown; English translation by Theodore Martin, *Poems and ballads by Heinrich Heine*, 3rd ed. (Edinburgh, 1894).

Other settings of this poem: 13.

Полночь немая была холодна,  
Громко вълесу мои вонли эвучали.  
Темныя сосны очнулись отъсна,  
Н съсожаленьемъ главами качали.

The midnight was cold, and still, and sad,  
I roamed through the wood, and my heart was mad;  
I scared from slumber tree after tree,  
And in pity they shook their heads at me.

*original:*

Die Mitternacht war kalt und stumm;  
Ich irrte klagend im Wald herum.  
Ich habe die Bäum' aus dem Schlaf gerüttelt;  
Sie haben mitleidig die Köpfe geschüttelt.