

# Dear Pianists,

In this volume you will find a simple arrangement for piano of the enchanting symphonic suite for orchestra "Scheherazade" by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov (1844 – 1908), based on the tales from the "Thousand and one Nights", with all the pieces appearing in their original keys. In his "Chronicle of my musical life" Rimsky-Korsakov wrote of the work:

*"During its composition I envisaged these rough headings (titles) simply as a means of steering the listener's imagination along the same path as the one I had followed myself ... I simply wanted the listener, if he enjoyed my music as a symphonic work, to have the unmistakable impression that it was an oriental story made up of many and various miraculous fairytales, and not merely four pieces played one after the other. So why did I give my Suite the specific name "Scheherazade"? Because this name and the title of a "Thousand and one Nights" are associated in everyone's minds with the world of the Orient and its fairytales."*

Yet his unwillingness to associate himself with so-called "programme music" led the composer to delete the titles, such as "The Sea and Sinbad's ship", in a subsequent edition of his score.

As most of the fairytales mentioned are unfamiliar to us, I did not choose to invent stories of my own. But anyone can allow their own imagination to roam as they play and listen to the pieces and look at the pictures, as for example with the tale of Prince Kalender.

But now step into the magical oriental world of the "Thousand and one Nights" and join a musical journey through the marvellous stories of "Scheherazade".

With best wishes,  
Hans-Günter Heumann

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