

studied the music, history and lore of Central Asia, where the opera is set, and sought out travelers with first-hand knowledge of the region. *Prince Igor's Aria* was written twice: first (in 1875) as a dutifully 'kuchkist' arioso over a texture of leitmotifs then, definitively in 1881, in full accord with the composer's lyric impulse and in manifest emulation of the title character's battlefield soliloquy in *Ruslan*. The stately themes of its vast da capo structure are concerned, respectively, with Igor's freedom to seek personal glory, and with tender thoughts of his waiting wife, Yaroslavna.

Blue Topaz

Tommy Peterson

Pullman Gerald "Tommy" Pederson was an American trombonist and composer, prolific in jazz, big band, and classical genres. He was a studio musician for movie soundtracks, television and radio shows, and other recordings. Following five years of compositional silence (1965-1969), Pederson entered his most productive two years of composing from 1970-1971. During this period, he composed almost 100 works for trombone, with works for every size ensemble from two to twenty trombones. Among his compositions during this time was *Blue Topaz*. Originally composed for solo bass trombone and trombone sextet, the piece is in ABA'B' form, alternating between a dramatic fanfare and passages in jazz ballad style. The work is often performed heavily stylized with jazz inflections, although they are not notated.

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