A Lithuanian painter and composer

Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis
(1875-1911)
Biography

Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis – was one of the most famous Lithuanian artist, composer, choir kapellmeister and litterateur.

He was born in Varėna, but soon his family moved to Druskininkai. M.K. Čiurlionis was the oldest of nine children of his father, Konstantinas, and his mother, Adelė. Čiurlionis was a musical prodigy: he could play by ear at the age three and could sight read music freely by age seven. His father was his first teacher. Three years out of primary, he went to study at the musical school of Prince Michal Oginski in Plungė. Supported by Prince Oginski’s scholarship, Čiurlionis studied piano and composition at Warsaw Conservatory (from 1894-1899).

In 1994 he studied drawing at the Warsaw School of Fine Arts. Čiurlionis died very young, he was only 35 years old. He died of pneumonia.
Shortly about M. K. Čiurlionis‘s parents

Father, Konstantinas Čiurlionis (1846-1914) was organist and choirmaster. His mother, Adelė Marija Magdelena Radmanaitė was born in about 1854. Mikolajus had never learnt to talk fluently in Lithuanian, because his family talked in Polish.

(M. K. Čiurlionis‘s parents)
During his short life he composed about 250 pieces of music and created about 300 paintings. He was an unusual man and a non-traditional creator. He could not decide which branch of art to choose and which is the most suitable to express his ideas. Čiurlionis was interested not only in literature of the time, but also science-history, philosophy. He quickly became interested in art, after he had composed music.
Music

• In his short time, Čiurlionis composed about 300 compositions for choir, piano, organ and orchestra. Besides, he was the first to composed Lithuanian symphonic and chamber music.
• Folf songs for choir Čiurlionis began compose because he saw, that Lithuanians’ choirs don’t have good national repertoire.
• Some of his most-performed musical works include:
  • Prelude in F sharp major, String Quartet in C minor
  • Prelude in A major, Karalaitės kelionė: Pasaka (The Princess's Journey: A Fairy Tale) and so on…
Art

• Čiurlionis attract everybody’s attention with his unique individuality, but he was also one of those who proclaimed the concept of Lithuanian national art of the twentieth century.

• Čiurlionis painting captivates not only with its mysterious content and picturesque imagery but also with its original artistic form.
“Kings’ fairy tale”
“Rex”
“Friendship”
“Silence”
The cycle of 12 paintings „The Zodiac”

Avinas
Jautis
Dvyniai
Vėžys
Liūtas
Mergelė
Svarstyklės
Skorpionas
Šaulys
Ožiaragis
Vandenis
Žuvys
“Sonata of the Sun”
„Sonata of the Spring“
„Sonata of the Sun“
M. K. Ėiurlionis‘s photos

In addition, in the end of his life he became interested in photography.
Thank you for your attention