

# In On the Steppes Steps



“In the Steppes of Central Asia” is a popular tone poem by Russian composer Alexander Borodin. At the tune’s premiere, a critic wrote that the music realistically depicted peasants steppe-dancing in the Caucasus out-back. However, a later scholar unearthed a photograph of Borodin and his mistress, Inge, that was captioned in the composer’s shaky hand, “*On the steps of the Central Asian Asylum,*” fueling speculation that the title’s initial translation from В средней Азии was in error.