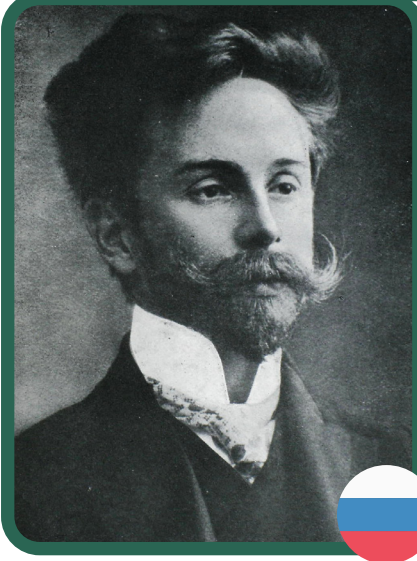




## COMPOSER BIOGRAPHY

**ALEXANDER SCRIBIN**

BORN: December 25, 1871    ERA/STYLE: Romantic/Early Modern

DIED: April 14, 1915        HOMETOWN: Moscow, Russia

Alexander Scriabin was born in Moscow, Russia in 1872. His father was a lawyer and his mother was a brilliant pianist. After his mother died when he was just 1 year old, he was looked after by his grandmother and aunt. He was educated in the Moscow Cadet Corps, but music was an important part of his early education. At the age of 16, Scriabin entered the Moscow Conservatory.

At the Moscow Conservatory, he studied piano and composition. In 1892, he left the Conservatory to pursue a career as a concert pianist. For several years he toured Europe performing his own works in concert. He injured his right hand by overstretching it during practicing, and doctors told him he would never be able to play the piano with both hands again. This was tragic news for the composer, who loved playing the piano and relied on his ability as a pianist to earn a living. While his right hand was recovering from injury, he wrote several pieces for the left hand only.

Scriabin's early works were influenced by Chopin and other earlier composers, but he soon developed his own musical language and became known as one of the most innovative but controversial early modern composers. He also had the ability to hear a certain sound and associate it with a certain color, a common version of a phenomenon known as synesthesia. He worked to combine color and music in his later pieces. Although Scriabin died at the early age of 43, his music achieved popularity; he enjoyed international fame and recognition during his lifetime, composing approximately 100 different works.