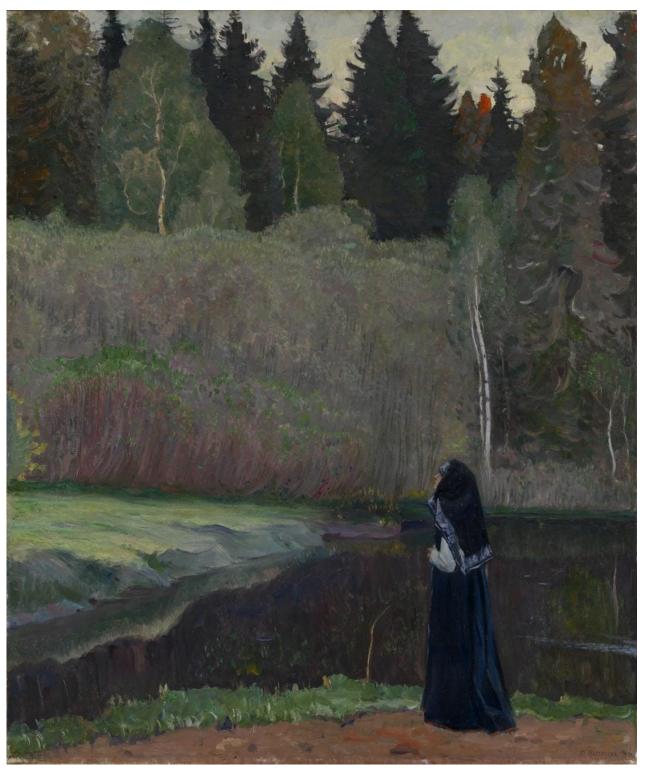
To a Nightingale

by <u>Michael Shindler</u> (July 2024)



The Nightingale Sings, Mikhail Vasilievich Nesterov (1919-23)

You sang to Keats
So happy
In the Roman streets
And then
To Shelley
Full fathom five
Where the sun meets
The Tyrrhenian Sea.

But to revive And hear it again,

That simple song in waning light, The triumph of comedy In the night,

In the stillness, the silence
The lull in the light's violence
In the dark, with the dead,
In hearts given to dread:

Sing a song Brownish bird, Sad and long, Without a word;

Sing, muse to muses, And more to men, With uses and abuses To hear again;

Sing, to hear and Never forget; To survive And say amen, But stand In debt; Sing, color the air Without a country, Without a care, In the night, On the page, To rhymer's delight, On the stage, On Good Friday, In a bad play.

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Michael Shindler is a writer living in Washington, DC. His work has appeared in publications including *The American Conservative*, *The American Spectator*, *National Review Online*, *New English Review*, *University Bookman*, and *Providence*. His new book is *Fret Not* and is available here. Follow him on Twitter MichaelShindler.

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