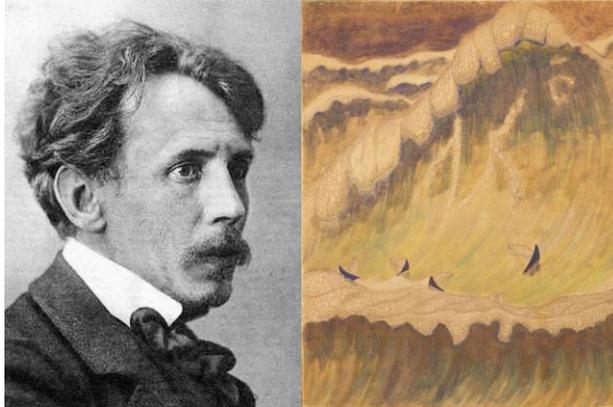


# THE CHEST GAZETTE

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## Mikalojus Konstantinas Ciurlionis (1875-1911)

Mikalojus Konstantinas Ciurlionis was a Lithuanian painter and a composer. He was an outstanding artistic person and made a huge influence on Lithuanian culture. The artist can be seen as a truly Renaissance figure. Over a short career, he composed nearly four hundred musical compositions, including two large-scale symphonic poems, an overture, two piano sonatas, a string quartet, and a cantata for chorus and orchestra. During those same brief years he also created approximately four hundred paintings, as well as several literary works and poems. Notes from his study years at the Warsaw Institute of Music show his interest in geology and history, chemistry and geometry, physics and astronomy, astrology and ancient mythology, dead and modern languages, philosophical ideas of antiquity and modernity, eastern and western religions.

On the other hand, his active involvement in the Lithuanian national movement and his idealist self-sacrifice for the sake of artistic ideals show him as a typical artist of Romanticism. During his short life, Ciurlionis managed to be at the heart of the creation of the Lithuanian Artists Union and actively organized and participated in the first three exhibitions of Lithuanian artists, organized and directed Lithuanian Choruses in Warsaw, Vilnius, and St. Petersburg, and was the first Lithuanian professional composer not only to take interest in Lithuanian folk songs, but to collect and publish them. His passionate approach to life is perhaps best summarized by his refusal to accept an offered safe teaching position at the Warsaw Institute of Music, and his declaration in a letter to his brother that he intends "to dedicate to Lithuania" all of his "past and future works."



Author: Indre Adomaitiene,  
12.03.2021

<http://ciurlionis.eu/en/>

You can listen to some of the composer's music:

**The Sea:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BY4o2G6hmaQ>

**The Forest:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MzEH7xrmflg>

