Fable No. 170 — “The Eagle Appointed the Cuckoo a Nightingale.”

The Eagle bestowed upon the Cuckoo the rank of Nightingale.
The Cuckoo, in her new rank,
Seated importantly on an aspen,
Set about displaying her musical talents;
She looks — everyone flies away,
Some laugh at her, others scold her.
My Cuckoo was upset
And hurries to the Eagle with a complaint against the birds.
"Have mercy!" she says: "by your command
I have been named a Nightingale in this forest;
Yet they dare to laugh at my singing!"
"My friend!" the Eagle replies: "I am a tsar, but I am not God.
I cannot save you from your misfortune.
I could make them honor the Cuckoo as a Nightingale;
But I could not make the Cuckoo a Nightingale."