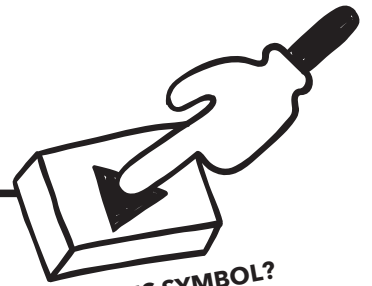


THE CLASSIC

SERGEI PROKOFIEV



SEE THIS SYMBOL?
IT MEANS YOU CAN
LISTEN TO A FRAGMENT.
PRESS HERE!



SERGEI PROKOFIEV

Today, we are listening to the music of Sergei Prokofiev.

He was born on 23 April 1891 in Russia.

As a child, he often heard his mother play Beethoven and Chopin on the piano. It soon became clear that he was a musical child wonder. He wrote his first piece for the piano when he was 5 years old, and his first opera at the age of 9.

Do you play an instrument? If so, which one?

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Have you ever composed a piece of music?

YES/NO

PETER AND THE WOLF



Maybe you know Prokofiev from his very famous piece Peter and the Wolf?
Click on the link if you would like to listen to it again.



FIRST SYMPHONY: 'THE CLASSICAL'

Sergei Prokofiev wrote his very first symphony a hundred years ago. He was 26 years old. He used the same style as Haydn, in other words, classical.

Aha! So that is why he named it 'The Classical'! Sergei Prokofiev wrote this work in a house in the countryside. He regularly went for a walk through the fields while thinking about his music.

ACTIVITY:



Take a walk in your garden or around your neighbourhood.

Take along a notebook and something to write with.

What sounds do you hear outside? Close your eyes and listen.

When you hear a new sound, write it down.



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Can you find an example of each of these sounds?

Quiet or **LOUD** sounds

Skrill or *soft* sounds

BUZZING or *beeping* sounds

HIGH or *low* sounds

Whistling or **CLAPPING** sounds

distant or **NEARBY** sounds

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



THE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

A symphony orchestra (such as the Brussels Philharmonic) consists of different instruments. Each has its fixed place, as you can see on the drawing. Each instrument belongs to a family of instruments. For example, the violin is said to be part of the string family because you play on the strings of the instrument with a bow. A clarinet belongs to the woodwinds because the instrument is made of wood.



DID YOU KNOW?

That a flute is made of metal? An expensive flute can even be made of silver! Yet the instrument also belongs to the woodwinds, because in the past flutes were made of wood.



ACTIVITY: INSTRUMENT FAMILY

Take 4 colours: red, blue, yellow and green. Colour the instruments on your drawing in the colour of the right instrument family and write the names of the instruments in the correct column:

violin, flute, oboe, timpani, trumpet, viola, triangle, bassoon, clarinet, bass tuba, cello, trombone, snare drum, bass drum, double bass, piccolo, cymbals

Red	string instruments
	
	
	
	
Green	brass instruments
	
	
	
	
Yellow	woodwinds
	
	
	
	
Blue	percussion
	
	
	

THE DIFFERENT PARTS OF 'THE CLASSICAL'



A symphony consists of different movements. The composer uses an Italian word to tell people how it should be played.

FIRST MOVEMENT: ALLEGRO

Allegro means joyful. And you can hear that in the instruments?
It seems like they are having a party and telling each other jokes.
You can hear a flute giggling, a drum laughing, a viola grinning.
What fun, yay!



ACTIVITY LISTEN, LAUGH AND DRAW!

Listen to the first movement while you draw laughing instruments.

What would such a party of instruments look like?

And above all ... what jokes would instruments tell each other?

You can write those into the text balloons as well.



The trumpet says to the trombone:
'I know what time it is without looking at the clock.
Trombone: how is that?
Trumpet: I go to the balcony and trumpet like mad.
The neighbours then say:
'Are you crazy? It's 4 in the morning!'

SECOND MOVEMENT: LARGHETTO (= A LITTLE SLOW)

The instruments are tired. They need to recover from the party, and play slower and more quietly. One they have rested up, they stretch out, and... build their energy up again.



ACTIVITY LISTEN AND MOVE!

Lying on the ground with your eyes closed, listen to the music.

You are tired and move your head and arms slowly. You feel your strength return gradually to your body, stretch out, stand up straight and move to the music. When you hear the instruments grow tired again, lie down again.

THIRD MOVEMENT: GAVOTTA: NON TROPPO ALLEGRO (= NOT TOO FAST)

The instruments are full of energy again, and are getting ready to dance! The word 'Gavotte' comes from French. It is the name given to a dance that originated in the French Alps.



ACTIVITY DRESS UP AND DANCE!

Look around at home for some suitable dress-up clothes. Find a dance partner (a stuffed toy will do fine, too!) and dance together to the third movement of Prokofiev's Symphony.



ACTIVITY LOOK!

Click here to watch a video showing how to dance the Gavotte. Take a look at what the dancers are wearing

FOURTH MOVEMENT: FINALE MOLTO VIVACE (= VERY LIVELY)

In the fourth movement, you hear the instruments go completely wild. Now and then, you can hear some loud outbursts. The instruments seem to be jumping all together!



ACTIVITY WATCH AND CONDUCT!

Watch this short film and pay attention mainly to the conductor. Can you see how lively and firm he moves his arms? Take a stick and imitate his movements. Feel the strength in your arms while you conduct the orchestra.



THERE WE GO!

You have got to know Prokofiev and his first symphony, 'The Classic'. How did you like it? Let us know via... We are always happy to receive videos, photos or drawings as well. See you next time!

