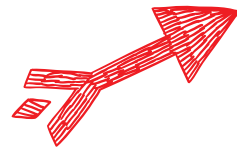


**SYMFOMANIA!  
DO IT YOURSELF**

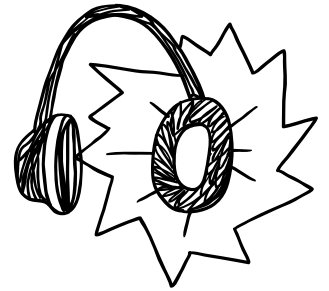


# STRAVINSKY'S PETRUSHKA



## STRAVINSKY

Igor Stravinsky was born in 1882 in Oranienbaum, Russia. He grew up in the countryside, where he was fascinated by the songs sung by farmers while they worked. Later, he moved to the big city of Saint Petersburg and there, too, he absorbed all the music he heard. The influence of Russian folk music can be heard in Stravinsky's compositions, and certainly also in the work that we are talking about today: Petrushka!

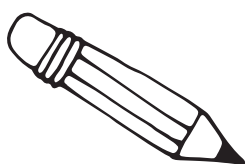


## STRAVINSKY AND PICASSO

Igor Stravinsky and the artist Pablo Picasso were close friends. Both were important innovators in 20th-century art. Here you can see the painting 'Harlequin'. Picasso looked at the figure of the Harlequin from several sides and painted those parts next to each other like in a collage.

That is also what Stravinsky did with his music. He started out with various musical ideas, such as Russian folksongs, and placed them next to each other. The music is angular and has odd accents. At first, many people found Picasso's and Stravinsky's works strange and ugly.

What do you think?



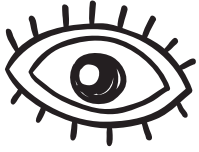
**ACTIVITY:** Create your own collage!

Cut out parts of human beings from a magazine and stick them back together to make a new, angular figure.



# PETRUSHKA OR PINOCCHIO?

Petrushka is a ballet that was first performed in Paris by the Ballets Russes in 1911. The story is about a puppet that comes to life, just like Pinocchio!  
The dancers' costumes were designed by the artist Alexandre Benoit. Here you can see the drawings for the 4 main characters in the story.



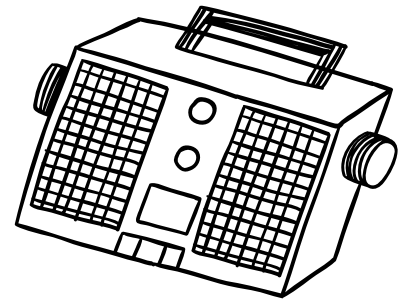
## ACTIVITY:

Write the names under the matching drawing:  
Choose from: Old Magician - Ballerina - The Moor - Petrushka



# THE STORY IN 4 MOVEMENTS

Listen to the music while you read the story and look at the illustrations by Alexandre Benoit. Have fun!



## 1st Movement: The Market



The work begins with a carnival celebration at the market of Saint Petersburg. You can hear the cheerful hustle and bustle of the people at the market. An organ grinder is playing a happy Russian folk tune. Then we hear the sound of trumpets. They announce the arrival of the old Magician. He gets ready to start his puppet show.

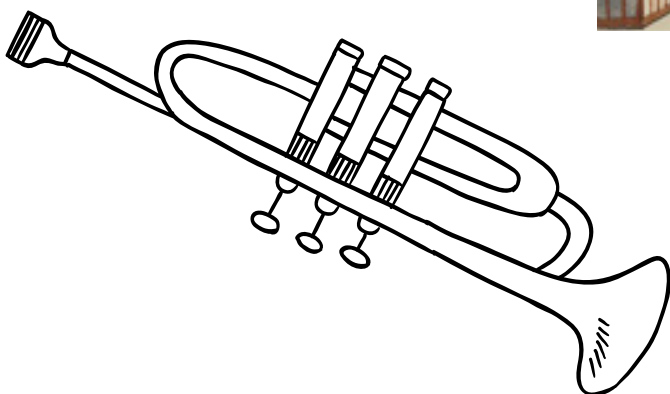
Suddenly, the curtain of his mini-theatre goes up. The Magician introduces three puppets to the public: Petrushka, the Ballerina and the Moor. The Magician plays a magic spell on his flute. The puppets come to life. Close your eyes and hear the magic!

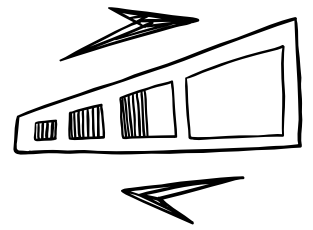
Suddenly, the 3 puppets jump off the stage and start a wild Russian dance in the middle of the audience. They put on a lively show!



## 2nd Movement: Petrushka's room

After the puppet show, the Magician throws Petrushka harshly into his room. Petrushka is angry with the Magician because he treats Petrushka like just a puppet who cannot feel anything. He is also sad because his love for the Ballerina is not returned. And yet he does his very best to impress her with all his artistry. He tries to escape from his room, but is unsuccessful. Can you hear Petrushka's despair in the trumpet?





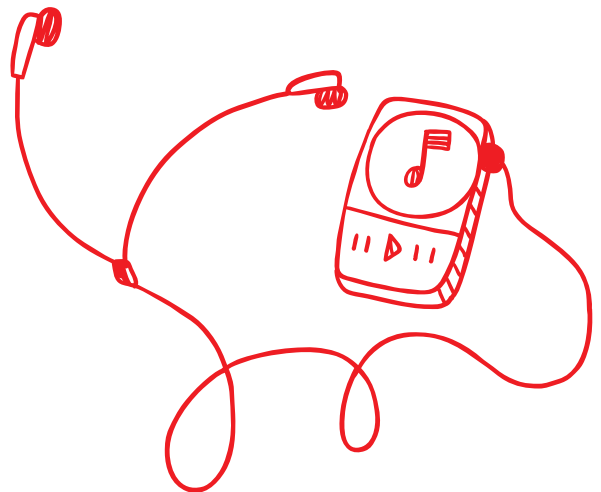
### 3rd Movement: The Moor's room

We are going to visit the Moor's room. This room is much bigger and nicer than Petrushka's. The Moor is lying lazily on a sofa and playing with a coconut. He tries to split it in two with his sabre. As he is not succeeding, he imagines that the coconut must be God, and begins to pray to it. You can hear eastern melodies played by the English horn and the contrabassoon. The Ballerina then comes in and plays a tune on a toy trumpet. The Ballerina dances a waltz with the Moor. Will they fall in love? At last, Petrushka manages to escape from his room. He attacks the Moor, but he is not strong enough. Petrushka runs for his life, pursued by the Moor. Exciting!



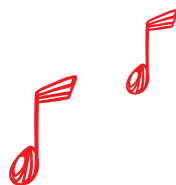
### 4th Movement: The market and the death of Petruska

It is now evening at the carnival on the market, and everyone is dancing up a storm! First comes the Dance of the Wet-nurses. This is followed by a peasant with a dancing bear, gypsies, coachmen, grooms and people wearing masks. Suddenly, a shout is heard from the puppet theatre. Petrushka runs onto the stage, followed by the Moor. Everyone panics. The Moor catches Petrushka and kills him with his sabre. The police arrive and question the Old Magician. He shakes the sawdust out of Petrushka's body, and says: 'It's not so bad, look, it's only a puppet, and puppets have no souls, after all.' Night falls, and everyone goes home. The Magician goes away, too, with the lifeless body of Petrushka in his hands. At the end, Petrushka's ghost appears on the roof of the little puppet theatre. Enraged, he speaks to the Old Magician: 'Now you can never hurt me again! As for a soul, you can see that I certainly have one!'



### ACTIVITY: Make a collage of the carnival feast!

Look through a magazine and cut out anything that could fit with a carnival. Now make your own collage, by sticking all the cut-out pictures on a sheet of paper. You can draw inspiration from the story: dancing bears, horse-drawn carriages, etc. Put your imagination to work – what else could fit with this feast?



### The ballet

In this short film, you can see what the ballet and the costumes and set look like.

SEE! NOW YOU KNOW THE STORY OF PETRUSHKA.  
ENJOY THE MUSIC!