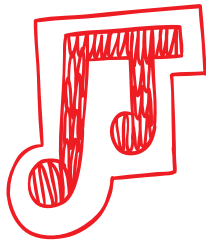
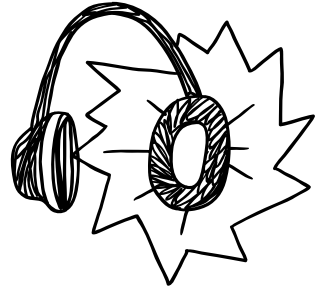
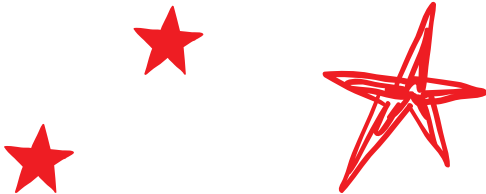
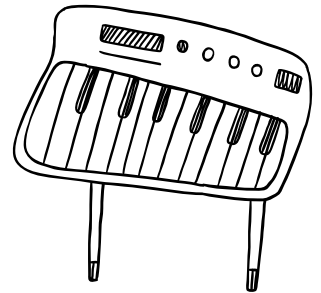


SHOSTAKOVICH 7



SHOSTAKOVICH

Shostakovich was born on 25 September 1906 in Saint Petersburg. He was a Russian composer and pianist. He married 3 times and had 2 children, Galina en Maxim.



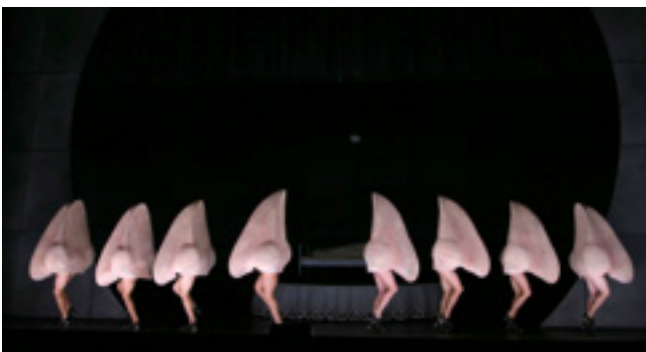
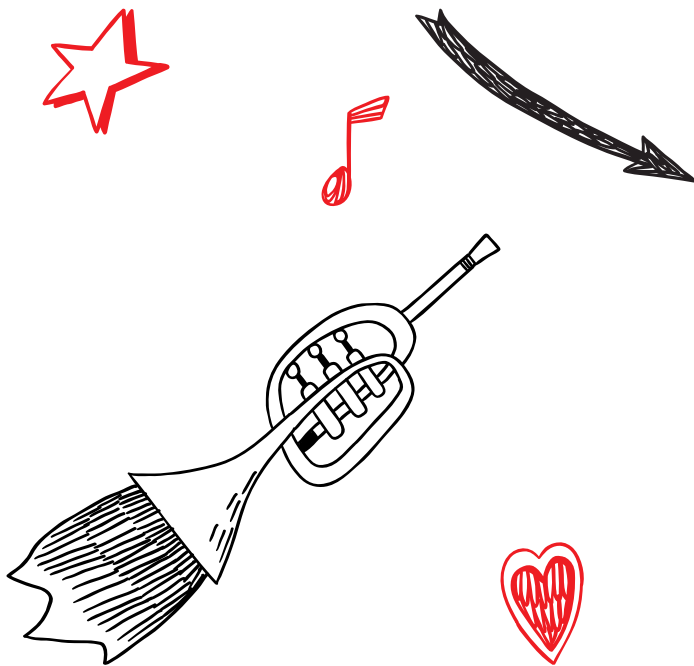
ACTIVITY: Arrange the photos in order from young to old by adding the numbers from 1 to 5 inside the circles.



His full name in Russian is written like this:

Дмі́трий Дмі́триевич Шостако́вич

ACTIVITY: decipher it and write out his name.

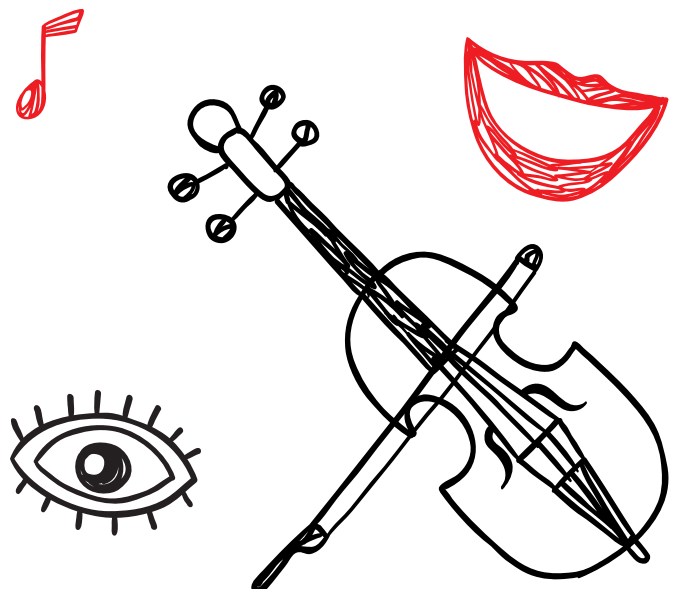


Shostakovich was one of the greatest composers of the 20th century. He was known mostly for his symphonies, string quartets and piano music, but he also wrote music for 35 films, ballets and operas. His first opera was called 'The Nose'. The story is about a man who wakes up one day and notices that his nose has disappeared. The nose goes on to live a life of its own, which leads to all sorts of crazy situations.

You can watch a funny scene from this opera here:



Het Russische alfabet		Uitspraak
А	а	als in lam
Б	б	b als in boek
В	в	w als in waak
Г	г	g als in goal
Д	д	d als in dak
Е	е	je als in jekker
Ё	ё	jo als in jokken
Ж	ж	zj als in horloge
З	з	z als in zaal
И	и	ie als in Mies
Й	й	j als in jaar
К	к	k als in kast
Л	л	l als in last
М	м	m als in man
Н	н	n als in nat
О	о	o als in pot
П	п	p als in pan
Р	р	r als in rat
С	с	s als in som
Т	т	t als in tak
У	у	oe als in boef
Ф	ф	f als in feest
Х	х	ch als in chaos
Ц	ц	ts als in tsaar
Ч	ч	tsj als in Tsjech
Ш	ш	sj als sjouwen
Щ	щ	ssj als in appels sjouwen
Ъ	ъ	wordt niet uitgesproken
Ы	ы	y zie Uitspraak
Ь	ь	wordt niet uitgesproken
Э	э	e als in echt
Ю	ю	joe als in joelen
Я	я	ja als in jas

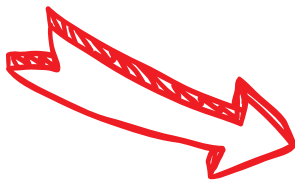
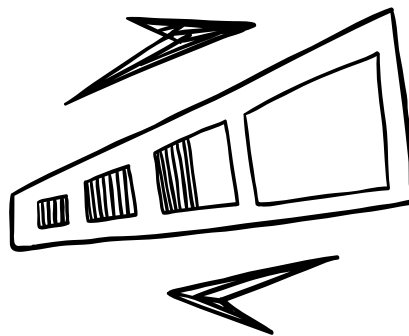


WAR SYMPHONY

Shostakovich wrote no fewer than 15 symphonies! He wrote the first one when he was just 19 years old. Today, we will be listening to the 7th Symphony, also known as the 'Leningrad' Symphony. Shostakovich wrote it in 1941, during the 2nd World War. The Nazis were at the gates of the city of Leningrad in order to conquer it. It was difficult to find enough musicians for the premiere because so many of them had died or fled. The rehearsals were short because the musicians were very weak and thin from hunger. For the brass instruments, in particular, playing was very tiring. 3 musicians even died during the rehearsals.



Just before the premiere, loudspeakers were installed everywhere connected to the radio station that was broadcasting the concert, so that both residents of Leningrad and the German troops could hear it. During the concert, no bombs or shooting was heard, only music! The applause for the orchestra afterwards lasted a whole hour.



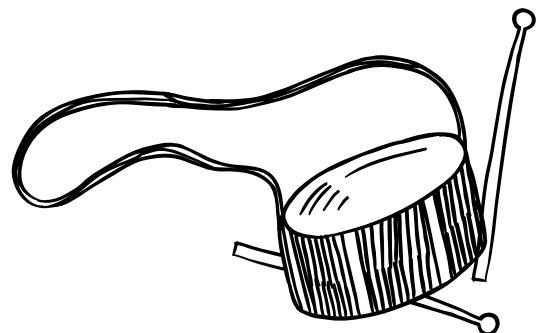
THE 7TH SYMPHONY IN 4 MOVEMENTS

Like every symphony, the 'Leningrad' is made up of several movements. Listen to each movement and do the activities.

1ST MOVEMENT. Allegretto



In the beginning, you hear excited music in a rapid tempo. It is as if Shostakovich wanted to paint a picture of a happy city of Leningrad before the war. After around 7 or 8 minutes, you hear the drums play a military rhythm, above which the violins play a pizzicato melody. This melody reminds us of a German song that was said to be Hitler's favourite. So it may be that Shostakovich was using this song to represent the arrival of the German soldiers.





Daar komt de oor-log, daar zijn de bom-men, zie de sol-da-ten, ze
 staan al aan de poor-ten, ze staan al aan de poor-ten. Ze ko-men van ver-re,
 ko-men van ver-re om de oor-log te win-nen. Ze zul-len ver-lie-zen!



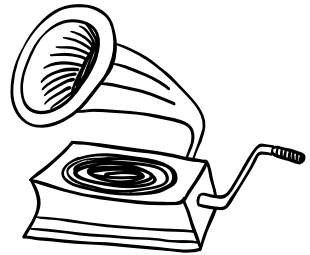
ACTIVITY:

Sing along with the melody and count how many times it returns.

2ND MOVEMENT. Moderato



This movement begins slower than the first, and was given the title of 'Remembrance' by Shostakovich. You hear the violins first. It's as if they were playing a children's game. After that, the oboe plays a solo. Can you recognize this instrument? In between, there is a fast, loud part. At the end, the playful violins return.



ACTIVITY:

Listen to the music while thinking of your own memories.
 Choose one memory and make a drawing of it.

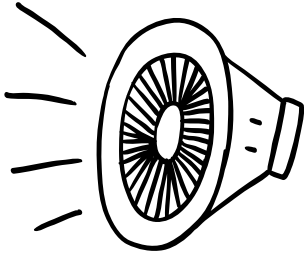


3RD MOVEMENT. Adagio



Shostakovich said that in this movement he wanted to depict Leningrad in the dark, when the streets and the banks of the Neva River encased in darkness.

The third movement is structured like second. It starts with a slow part with long notes, played first by the woodwinds and then by the strings and horns. We will call this movement 3a. This is followed by a faster and louder middle part, in which the double basses and wind instruments sometimes play an oom-pah-pah, oom-pah-pah. We refer to this movement as 3b. The last part, 3c, is again slower with long notes in the violins and oboes.



ACTIVITY:

Take several coloured pencils and draw the melodies as lines on your page.

When you hear a new instrument, use a new colour. Start in box 3a.

If the music gets louder and faster, move to box 3b. For the last, slow part, draw in box 3c.

3a

3b

3c

4TH MOVEMENT. *Allegro non troppo*

Shostakovich called this movement “Victory”. It begins very quietly but ends in a fierce and triumphant climax!

ACTIVITY:



Brace yourself, for you are now going to be the hero of this musical story! Start the music and look for some clothes that suit your victory. Will you be a soldier, or superhero, or...? In the quiet part, get all dressed up and come up with a plan for how to slay your imaginary enemy. And then... look out! Make wide movements while performing your victory dance. And don't forget to take a bow at the end, as the whole world will be applauding you!



ENJOY SHOSTAKOVICH'S
7TH SYMPHONY!