

**SYMPHOMANIA!**  
**DO IT YOURSELF**

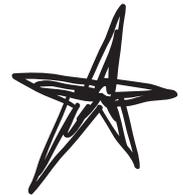
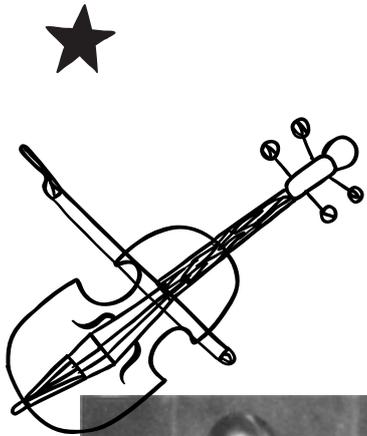
# STRAVINSKY

## THE FIREBIRD



### IGOR STRAVINSKY

Stravinsky was born in Russia in 1882. He grew up in St. Petersburg as an only child in a musical family. His father was an opera singer. Later in life, Stravinsky lived in France and in the United States. He was a very famous composer and conductor. There was even a postage stamp bearing his portrait!



# THE FIREBIRD: THE BALLET

The Firebird is a ballet for which Stravinsky wrote the music. In a ballet, several different art forms come together. There are of course the ballet dancers, who dance to live orchestral music. The costumes and sets are designed by a visual artists. The photos depict a few of the designs by Marc Chagall for the costumes of The Firebird.

The ballet is rarely performed these days. But the music is still often played.



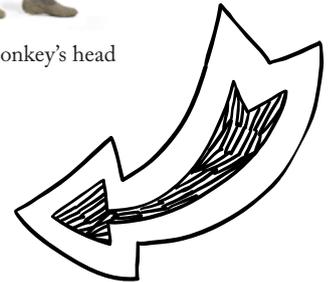
Blue-yellow monster



Green monster

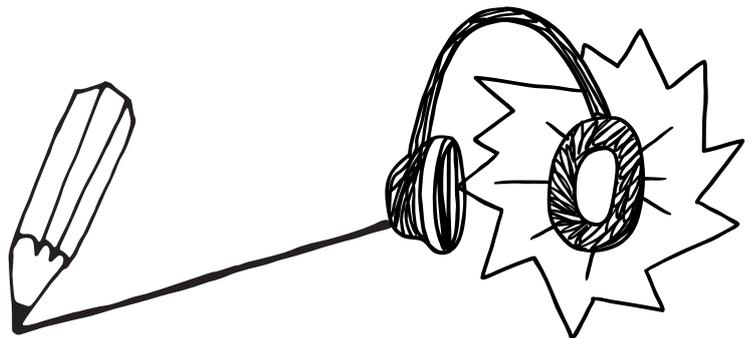


monster with a donkey's head



# THE FIREBIRD: THE STORY

The story is based on old Russian folk tales. It's about 2 magical beings: the good Firebird and the evil sorcerer Koschei. Together, we will discover the story step by step. Are you ready?



## ACTIVITY: Listen and draw your own Firebird comic strip!

Play the music movement by movement, and read a piece of the magical story. Draw inside the box with the right number. You can think up your own magical beings. You can find inspiration in the photos. Think up some text as well. The easiest is to write the text first and then draw a speech balloon around it.





Set design for *The Firebird*  
by Aleksandr Golovin



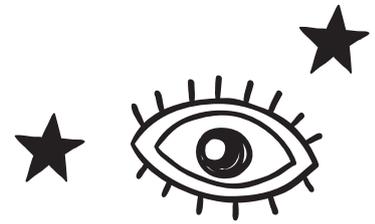
The sorcerer Koschei,  
by Aleksandr Golovin



Ivan Bilibin, 1899



The lovely princess,  
costume design by Léon Bakst



### Introduction (3')

**1.** You are in the garden of the evil sorcerer Koschei. At first, everything looks normal, but if you look closely, you can see some very unusual flowers, plants and trees. Give your imagination free rein and draw a picture of the magical garden.

**2.** Draw the evil sorcerer here.  
He says: 'I am Koschei, hahaha!'



### The dance of the Firebird (2')

**3.** The Firebird appears in the magical garden next to some trees with golden apples. The bird can never die, but can be afraid of losing her freedom.  
The Firebird dances, flutters and flies around the tree

**4.** Now Ivan, the young prince, appears. He manages to capture the bird. The Firebird begs him to spare him. In return for her freedom, she promises that she will help him whenever he is in need. Ivan pulls out one of the Firebird's feathers as a token of the promise.



### Round Dance of the Princesses (6')

**5.** Ivan wanders through the garden and sees a group of thirteen girls. They are dancing and playing. Ivan instantly falls in love with one of them. He finds out that the girls are in fact princesses. They are imprisoned in the garden by a spell cast by Koschei.

**6.** At daybreak, the girls must return to Koschei's palace.

**7.** Ivan wants to help them. He breaks down the palace gate, but is discovered by the monsters of Koschei. Oh, no! Surely the sorcerer won't turn him into stone?!



### Infernal Dance of King Koschei (5')

**8.** The monsters of Koschei pursue Ivan. They get dangerously close!

**9.** The Firebird remembers her promise and flies between the monsters and Ivan to protect him. She uses her magical powers to make the monsters engage in a wild dance.



### Lullaby (4')

**10.** The Firebird now sings a lullaby. Koschei and his followers fall asleep.

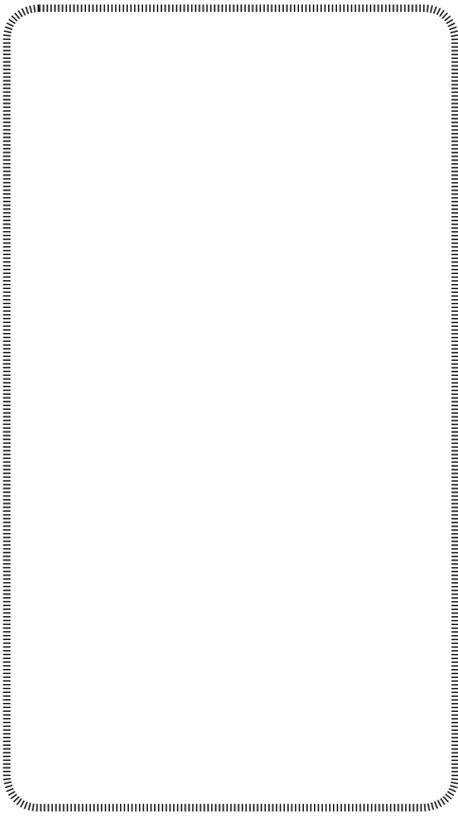
**11.** The Firebird reveals Koschei's secret – his immortality – to Ivan. She takes him to the grotto where a giant egg containing the sorcerer's soul is hidden. Ivan opens the casket and breaks the egg. The sorcerer dies immediately.



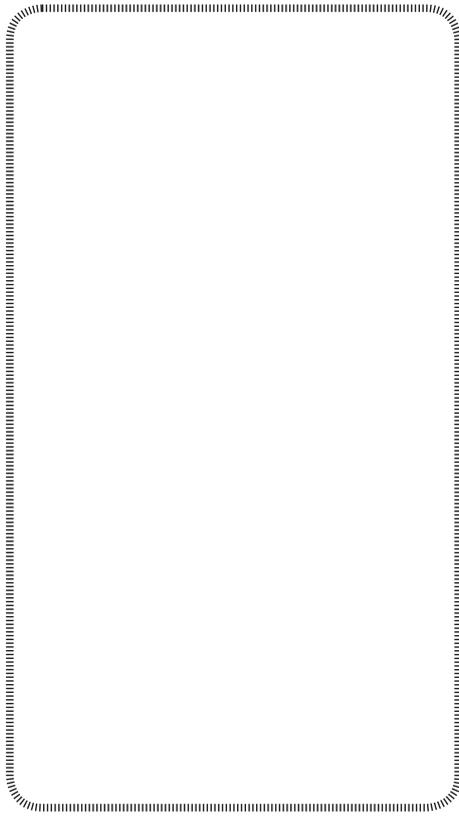
### Finale (3')

**12.** The spells are broken and the prisoners are set free. Ivan and his princess, Tsarevna, marry and live happily ever after.

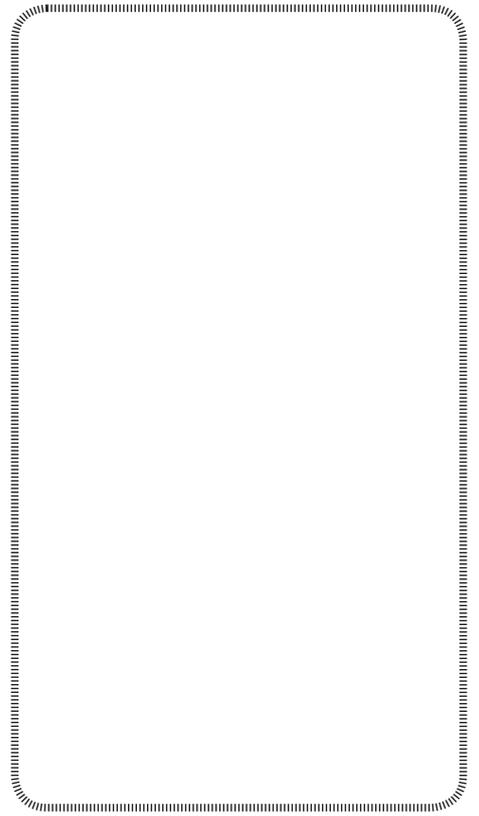




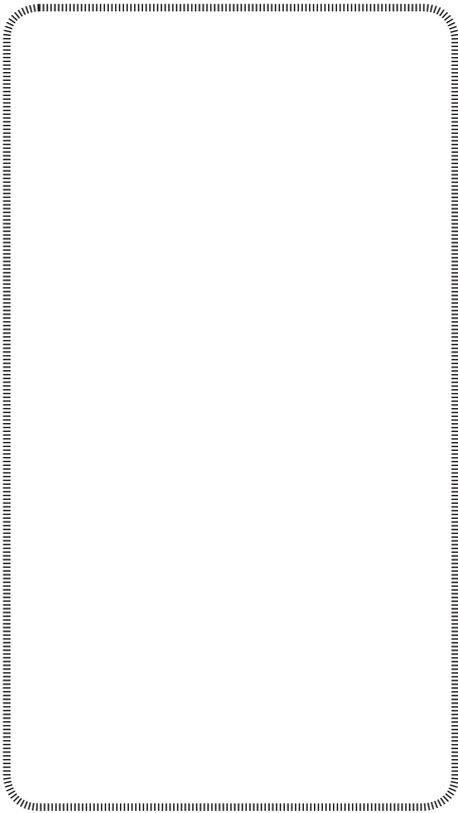
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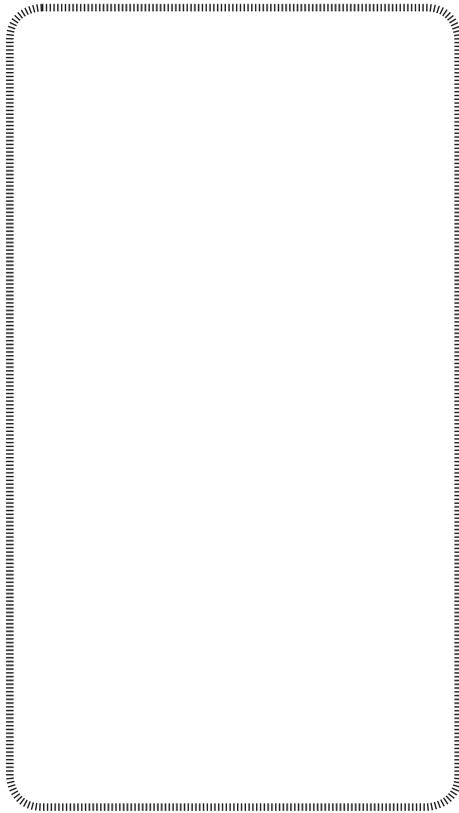
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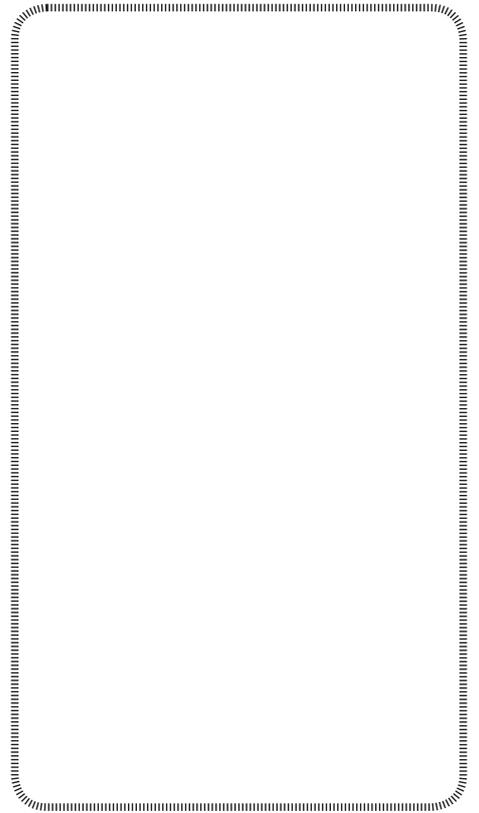
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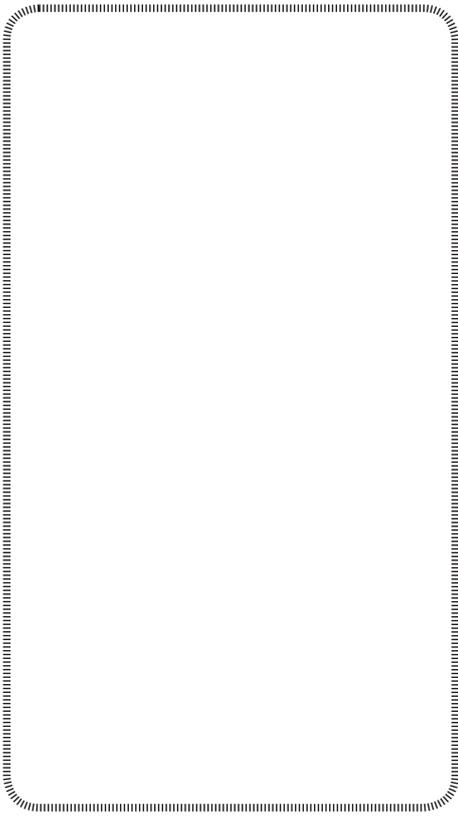


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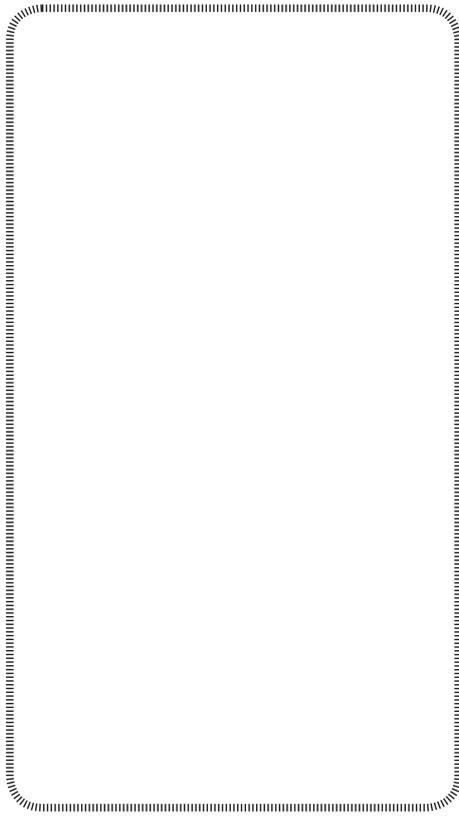


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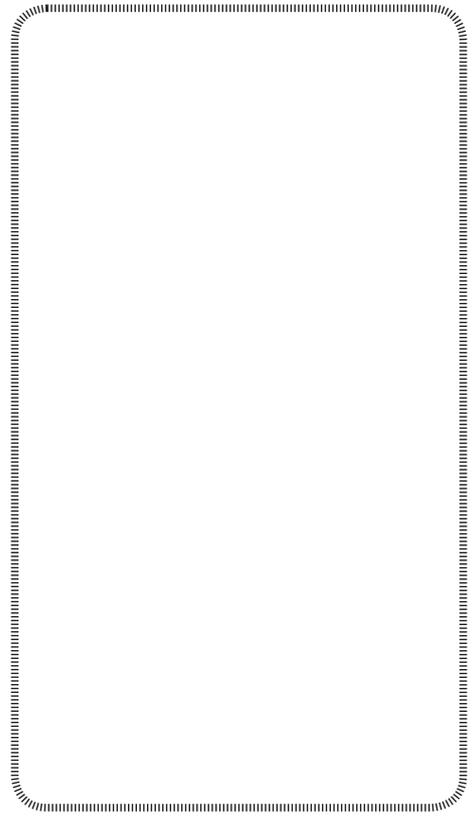




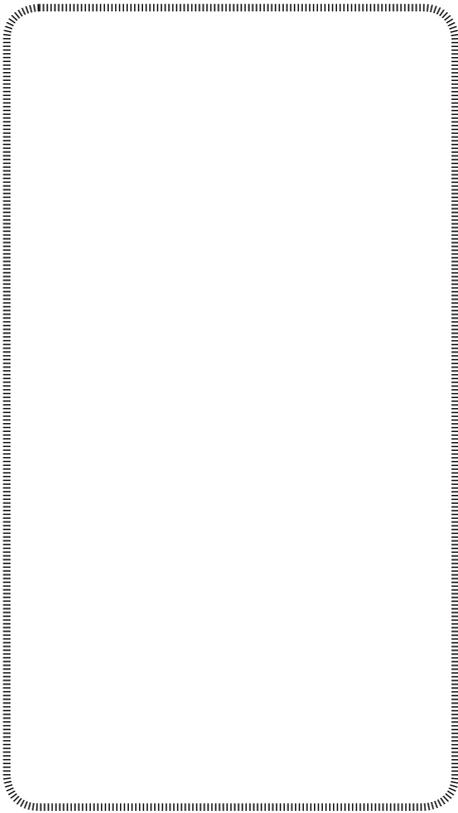
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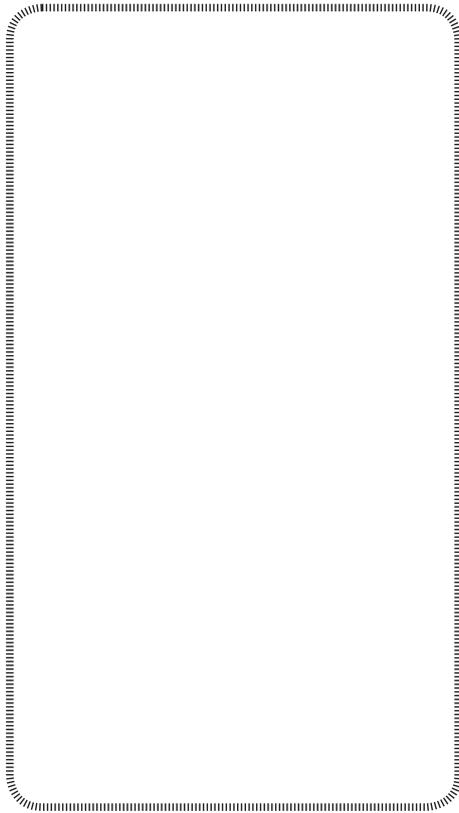
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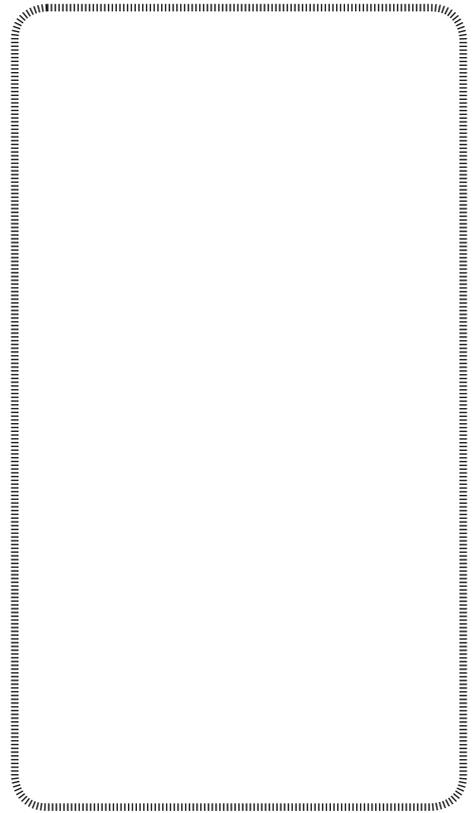
9.



10.



11.



12.

**CONGRATULATIONS! YOUR VERY OWN FIREBIRD COMIC STRIP IS  
FINISHED. IF YOU LIKE YOU CAN DRAW A COVER PAGE.  
ENJOY THE CONCERT!**