



SERGEI PROKOFIEV - 4-6 ONLY

(1891 - 1953)



SERGEI PROKOFIEV WAS BORN IN RUSSIA (NOW THE UKRAINE) IN 1891. BEGINNING PIANO STUDIES WITH HIS MOTHER AT AGE THREE, HE WAS SOON DISPLAYING UNUSUAL MUSICAL ABILITIES.

WITH HIS LONG, DANGLY ARMS AND LARGE HANDS, PEOPLE OFTEN COMPARED HIS PIANO PLAYING TO THE SOUND OF HAMMERS HITTING THE KEYS. ODDLY ENOUGH, HIS FAVORITE BOARD GAME WAS CHESS!

HIS FIRST OPERA, "THE GIANT", WAS COMPOSED BY THE TIME HE WAS ONLY NINE AND HE ENTERED WHAT WE WOULD CONSIDER COLLEGE BY THE TIME HE WAS 13. A FELLOW STUDENT AT THIS COLLEGE, THE ST. PETERSBURG CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC, WAS NONE OTHER THAN NIKOLAI RIMSKY-KORSAKOV. WHILE CONSIDERED A TROUBLEMAKER DURING HIS TIME IN SCHOOL, PROKOFIEV'S COMPOSITIONS HELPED TO USHER A NEW ERA OF RUSSIAN MUSIC. HE BROUGHT STRANGE NEW HARMONIES, DYNAMIC RHYTHMS AND LOTS OF HUMOR TO THE CONCERT HALL!

DURING THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION, PROKOFIEV LEFT FOR AMERICA WITH THE DREAM OF COMPOSING IN PEACE. AS IT TURNS OUT, AMERICAN AUDIENCES WERE NOT READY FOR HIS NEWER COMPOSITIONAL IDEAS, AND HE LATER MOVED TO PARIS. HERE, PROKOFIEV ENJOYED A MUCH HIGHER LEVEL OF SUCCESS.



IN 1932, PROKOFIEV FINALLY RETURNED TO RUSSIA. SOME OF HIS MOST RECOGNIZED WORKS WERE COMPOSED DURING THIS TIME, INCLUDING OUR STORY "PETER AND THE WOLF", AS WELL AS THE SCORE FOR THE BALLET "ROMEO AND JULIET."

PROKOFIEV LATER DIED ON MARCH 5, 1953.

MINI-TEST

1. IN WHAT YEAR WAS PROKOFIEV BORN? _____
2. WHAT WAS PROKOFIEV'S FAVORITE BOARD GAME? _____
3. WHERE DID PROKOFIEV FIRST GO AFTER HE LEFT AMERICA? _____
4. NAME THREE PIECES COMPOSED BY PROKOFIEV.
