

Igor Stravinsky

(EE-gawr struh-VIN-skee)

1882 – 1971



- Stravinsky was born in a town near St. Petersburg, Russia.
- He began piano lessons as a young boy, studying music theory and attempting composition but decided to not pursue music as a profession.
- He got a degree in law and philosophy at St. Petersburg University and then decided he wanted to make music his career.
- Stravinsky met Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov while on a holiday with one of his sons. He showed the famous composer some of his music and he was so impressed that he decided to take him on as a pupil for free.
- Stravinsky's big break came when the famous Diaghilev commissioned him to write a work for the Paris season of the Ballets Russes. He wrote *The Firebird* and it was an instant success.
- Over his lifetime, Stravinsky wrote 13 ballets, 4 pieces for band, 14 chamber pieces, 14 choral works, 4 concertos, 8 operas, 12 orchestral works, 18 pieces for piano and 22 pieces for voice.



Listen to *The Firebird*: Berceuse and Finale