

Dmitri Shostakovich

(dih-MEE-tree shos-tuh-KOH-vich)

1906 – 1975



- Shostakovich was born in St. Petersburg, Soviet Union, modern day Russia.
- He began piano lessons at age 9.
- At 13, he began formal schooling at the Petrograd Conservatory in St. Petersburg where he studied piano, composition and music history.
- Shostakovich's First Symphony (1926) was a major success.

- He composed in the Soviet Union under the harsh dictator Joseph Stalin. If a composer's music was perceived to be against the Soviet Union, the composer could face severe punishments or even death.



- Many of his works were banned; many others were only published after Stalin's death.
- Shostakovich wrote 15 symphonies, 6 concertos, 28 suites, 16 other symphonic works, 17 string quartets, 13 chamber pieces, 20 piano works, 10 operas, 5 ballets, 36 film scores, 12 incidental music pieces, 14 choral works, 31 vocal pieces, and 15 orchestrations.



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