

Sergei Prokofiev

(syir-gyey pruh-KOH-fee-ef)

1891 – 1953



- He was born in rural Sontsovka in the Russian empire, now part of Ukraine.
- His mother taught him piano as a young boy. At 5 he composed his first piano piece, and at 9 he composed his first opera and a few other pieces.
- At 11, he began formal composition studies with Reinhold Glière. Then he went to the St. Petersburg Conservatory where he studied with Rimsky-Korsakov and Liadov.
- He formed a lasting relationship with Sergei Diaghilev, who arranged Prokofiev's first performance outside Russia.
- He left Russia because of the revolution and moved to the United States and then France. Later in life, he returned to his homeland and at 54 was one of the most respected composers of the Soviet Union. His last few years were difficult for political, financial and health reasons, but a few years after his death, he once again was thought of as one of the best Russian composers.
- Prokofiev composed 14 operas, 9 ballets, 8 film scores, 4 incidental pieces, 10 symphonies, 41 other orchestral works, 11 concertos, 14 pieces for voice & orchestra, 4 choral works, 15 vocal songs, 15 chamber & instrumental works, 3 pieces for band, 30 piano pieces and 9 piano transcriptions.



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