

# Peter and the Wolf

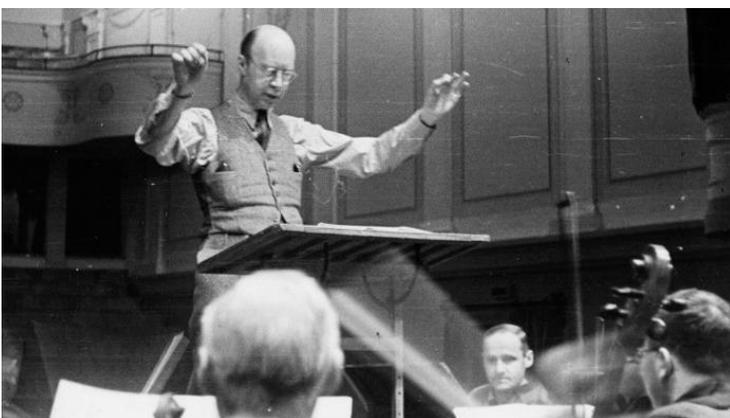
*Orchestra*  
of the Southern Finger Lakes  
TOSHIYUKI SHIMADA, Music Director & Conductor

# Sergei Prokofiev

Born in 1891, Russian composer Sergei Prokofiev became interested in music by hearing his mother play the piano every evening. It quickly became clear that young Sergei had a great deal of musical talent, as both a pianist and a composer. He composed his first piano composition at the age of 5 and his first opera when he was only 9. His parents sent him to the St. Petersburg Conservatory, where he studied with many famous Russian composers.



After the Russian Revolution in 1917, Prokofiev left home. He lived in the United States, then Germany and Paris, where he met and married Spanish singer, Carolina Codina. Together, they had two sons. In 1936, Prokofiev and his family returned to the Soviet Union. That same year, after taking his sons to the Moscow Children's Music Theater, he was inspired to compose a family-friendly piece to introduce his boys to the instruments of the orchestra. The result was *Peter and the Wolf*, a musical folktale in which various members of the orchestra represent



the characters in the story. The first performance was given on May 2, 1936 with the Moscow Philharmonic at the Moscow Conservatory. It was first performed in America at Symphony Hall in Boston, with Prokofiev conducting the Boston Symphony Orchestra in March 1938.

# A Story told through Music

Prokofiev was a master at using music to tell a story. Listen for different instruments and melodies that represent each character.

Peter's carefree attitude and boyish confidence can be heard in the string family's lively melody. These instruments use vibrating strings to produce their sound. The strings are set in motion by bowing, plucking, or striking them.

## String Family



The instruments in the woodwind family produce sound when the player blows air either against a sharp edge or through a reed, causing the air to vibrate. Most of these instruments are made of wood, but the flute and piccolo are made of metal.

Four characters in *Peter and the Wolf* are represented by members of the woodwind family:

## Woodwind Family



- The sneaky cat, stalking through the forest, is played by the cool clarinet.
- The cranky grandfather is represented by the bassoon.
- The flute perfectly imitates the chirping and singing of the bird.
- The quacking duck is characterized by the oboe.

The hungry wolf is played by the growling French horns, a member of the brass family. These instruments are sounded by the buzzing of the player's lips into a mouthpiece. Each is made

## Brass Family

of a long, winding piece of tubing that can be shortened or lengthened with valves or sliding parts. A flared opening at the end, called a bell, is where the sound comes out.



Trumpet



Tuba



French horn



Trombone

The booming timpani of the percussion family signifies the hunters' guns. Percussion instruments produce sound by being hit with a stick, mallet, or hand, or by being shaken, rubbed, plucked, or scraped. Some percussion instruments can create different pitches.

## Percussion Family



Triangle



Xylophone



Cymbals



Bass drum



Snare drum



Timpani

# Instrument Spotlight: Bassoon

The bassoon is a member of the woodwind family and a double reed instrument. It is made of an 8-foot wooden tube that is folded in half. A bassoon player makes sound on their instrument by using a double reed, two very thin pieces of cane that vibrate against each other when the player blows through them. The player can change notes by pressing different keys. The bassoon is the lowest voice in the woodwind section. There are usually two bassoons in an orchestra, but some pieces need four bassoons.



The bassoon has a cousin, the contrabassoon, that is often heard in orchestras. It sounds one octave lower than the bassoon. It is made of a 16-foot long wooden tube and is folded over itself twice.

You had better have strong thumbs to play bassoon. The right thumb controls four keys and the left thumb (see right) controls almost nine!



# The Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes

The Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes is a group of professional musicians who have trained and practiced, just like athletes, to become good at their instrument. Did you know that each musician had to audition to be in our orchestra? The competition can be very tough; sometimes hundreds of players try out for one spot. At an audition, musicians are required to play several orchestral excerpts, which are smaller passages within a large symphonic work. Usually excerpts are chosen because they demonstrate the technical and expressive skills of the musician. Flute players are often asked to play the bird excerpt from *Peter and the Wolf* because it is so difficult.

Conductor: Toshiyuki Shimada

## Violin I

Augusto Dimecke,  
concertmaster  
Debrah Devine, assistant  
concertmaster  
Craig Evans  
Yixuan Song  
Lisa Lantz  
Chester Chang  
Herbert Poetzl

## Violin II

Denise Nosewicz, principal  
Margaret Matthews  
Gary Chollet  
Don Webster  
Avner Finberg  
Andrew Kupin-Lisbin  
Tracey Ingerick

## Viola

Max Buckholtz, principal  
Joanne Lowe  
Mark Lewis  
Ben Magruder

## Cello

Christine Lowe-Diemecke,  
principal  
Gilbert Antoine  
Eric Johnson  
Wada Rintaro

## Bass

Patrick Dugan, principal  
Bliss Michelson  
John Krause

## Flute

Jeanne Sperber, principal  
Laura Campbell  
Melissa Moore

## Oboe

Susan Laib, principal  
Anita Pawlak  
Lesley McClelland

## Clarinet

Emily Dobmeier, principal  
Diana Groll

## Bassoon

Ryan Finefrock, principal  
Heather Cole

## Horn

Tyler Ogilvie, principal  
Terry Martens  
Rebecca Dodson-Webster  
Linda Bergstrom

## Trumpet

Jeff Stempien, principal  
Scott Kelley  
William Arnts

## Trombone

Norman Wilcox, principal  
Duane Smith  
Craig Harrigan

## Tuba

Dave Unland, principal

## Percussion

Simon Bjarning, principal

## Timpani

Emily Ickes, principal

## Harp

Rosanna Moore, principal

# A Guide to Good Concert Manners

When you attend an orchestra concert for the first time, it may feel like being in another country. The environment might be completely new and the program book could contain unfamiliar language. Here are some tips designed to help you have a successful trip to the symphony.

- \* Get to the concert hall at least ten minutes before the concert begins. This will give you enough time to visit the restroom, find your seat and get comfortable, and take a look at the program. If you must be late, please wait until a piece is completely finished before taking your seat, so you don't disrupt the other concert-goers too much.
- \* Before the concert begins, feel free to talk to the people you are sitting near. Just make sure you use an inside voice. If you have a cell phone, please turn it off so it doesn't ring during the performance.
- \* When the lights dim, you can expect to see the concertmaster (the first chair of the first violin section) enter the stage. It is customary to clap for the concertmaster to show respect for leading the string section.
- \* The conductor will make an entrance after the concertmaster sits down. You should clap as the conductor takes a bow. Again, this is a sign of respect.
- \* While the music is being played, we suggest that you remain watchful for many of the interesting things that happen on stage. For example, you will notice that the violin bows move up and down with perfect synchronization. This isn't a coincidence; the concertmaster decides every direction that the violinists should move their bows. If you watch the conductor carefully, you will see the conductor cue, or point to, the instrument that is about to play an important part. If you want to watch something a little gross, catch the brass players empty the spit from their instruments right onto the stage!
- \* One of the most confusing part of concert attendance is knowing when to clap. Sometimes the music will finish with a spectacular ending, leaving the audience with a strong urge to clap and cheer loudly. Check the concert program first to see if it is actually the end of the piece. It may just be the end of a movement, with more to come. The number of movements might be different for each piece, but make sure you wait until the last movement to clap.

# Show What You Learned!

## Fact or Opinion?

Before each sentence, write **F** for fact or **O** for opinion.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The oboe represents the duck in the musical folktale *Peter and the Wolf*.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The French horn is the most beautiful sounding instrument in the orchestra.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The bassoon is a double reed instrument in the woodwind family.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The string bass is the lowest sounding string instrument.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Sergei Prokofiev was born in Russia.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. The French horn has a cranky sound.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. The flute is the coolest instrument.

What was your favorite character or instrument from the story? Why?

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Do you think the French horn was a good instrument to represent the wolf? Why or why not?

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V U C S M S N F F E K T Y N J D M Y  
 I B Y A J W O L F F P E T E R O C C  
 O W X Y T P B J C R W U Q Q N C J A  
 L H O B I R D D O E C L A R I N E T  
 I F G O S H E U F N R H R P J Q Y X  
 N T R B D V R C R C X B T T W K F J  
 J M A S J W U K H H U N T E R S L O  
 M P N B T R I G A H J B W J A V U H  
 T W D C R L O N Z O N H A S O J T R  
 C S F E V A C Y D R S C R S K B E R  
 K C A Y L L S U U N M T P B S G O M  
 E R T A D F I S W O A Y R H E O U E  
 K D H W C O O N Q M Y C G I T O O W  
 U V E I P E R C U S S I O N N Z M N  
 I D R S R Z H R Y P V S Z Z P G C N

Peter	Hunters	Flute
Wolf	Violin	Percussion
Grandfather	French horn	String
Cat	Bassoon	Woodwind
Duck	Clarinet	Brass
Bird	Oboe	

## CLEMENS CENTER



This performance by the OSFL is presented as part of the 2019-2020 Mary Tripp Marks School-Time Series, hosted by The Clemens Center.

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## OSFL Sponsors



New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

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