

The Renaissance

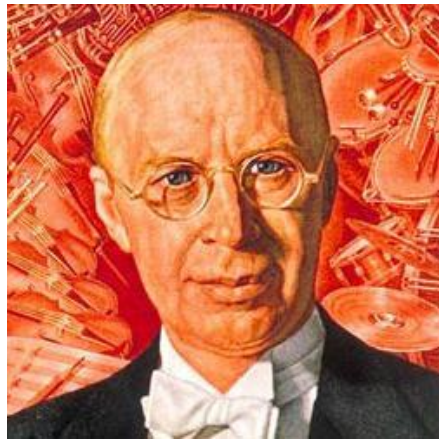
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Peter and the Wolf March 7, 2010 3:00 PM


MANSFIELD
SYMPHONY


Robert Franz
Music Director

Peter and the Wolf was written by Sergei Prokofiev after his return to the Soviet Union in 1936. Prokofiev wrote both the music, played by the orchestra, and the text, spoken by a narrator. The entire show was written in just four days and was intended to cultivate musical tastes in children from their first years of school. On May 2, 1936, the show debuted and was considered, in Prokofiev's words, inauspicious at best: "[attendance] was poor and failed to attract much attention."



Sergei Prokofiev

Prokofiev would never fully understand the impact his piece would have. In 1946, Disney produced an animated version of the show; in 1958, the Russian animation company, Soyuzmultfilm, produced a stop-motion version; and the piece has been referenced in numerous other media.

Peter and the Wolf

was originally written in Russian.

Here are some new ways to say the characters:

Bird - птица.

Duck - утка.

Cat - кот.

Grandfather - дед.

Wolf - волк.

Hunters - охотники.

Peter - Питер.

In **Peter and the Wolf**, each Character/Animal is represented by an instrument.

Bird: flute

Duck: oboe

Cat: clarinet

Grandfather: bassoon

Wolf: 3 horns

Hunters: woodwind theme with gunshots

on timpani and bass drum

Peter: string instruments

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The Story of Peter and the Wolf

A young Soviet Pioneer, Peter is at his grandfather's home in a forest clearing. One day Peter goes out in the clearing and accidentally leaves the garden gate open, which allows the duck that lives in their yard to go swimming in a nearby pond. The duck starts arguing with a little bird when Peter's pet cat sneaks up on them. Peter has a chance to warn them, and the little bird flies into a tall tree while the duck finds safety in the middle of the pond.

Peter's grandfather scolds Peter for being out in the meadow because a wolf could be in their midst. Peter gets in trouble for expressing that a Pioneer isn't afraid of wolves. For defying his grandfather, Peter is taken back into the house and the gate is locked. Just then, a big, grey wolf comes out of the woods. The cat flees into the tree, but the duck, who has already jumped out of the pond, is overtaken and gulped down by the wolf.

Peter uses a rope to climb over the garden wall into the tree. He convinces the little bird to distract the wolf by flying around his head. Peter then lowers a noose and catches the wolf by the tail. The more the wolf struggles, the tighter the noose gets. Just then, some hunters come out of the forest ready to shoot the wolf they've been tracking. But instead of taking a shot, Peter convinces them to help him take the wolf to a nearby zoo in a victory parade of himself, the little bird, the hunters leading the wolf, the cat, and a grumpy grandfather who wonders "what if Peter *hadn't* caught the wolf." As the story ends, the narrator explains that "if you listen very carefully, you'll hear the duck quacking inside the wolf's belly because the wolf, in his



Making a Straw Whistle

Obtain a straw. If you use the one you have used after drinking, rinse it out and let it dry before going to the next step. If the straw is wrapped, remove its wrapper. Chew on the end of the straw to flatten it.

Cut the edges off of the straw at a 45-degree angle at approximately 1 centimeter down from the tip. The tip should now look pointed and slanted.

Blow into the cut end of the straw to make a sound. (Practice if it doesn't work right away.)

Different lengths make different pitches. Cut the straw into a shorter piece to make a higher pitch sound. Longer straws will have lower sounds.

Fun variations:

1. Make two to three round holes near the uncut tip of the straw. Use any moderately sharp object, like a safety pin, pen or scissors, to pierce these holes. Only cut through the top side of the straw. Avoid piercing through to the lower part of the straw tube.
2. Add another straw to the end to make the whistle longer creating a lower sound. Widen the end of the straw by twirling a pencil in the uncut end and slipping another straw into the first straw.
3. Put the straw through the bottom of a paper cup to amplify the sound.