

YEAR TWO AND THREE

RESOURCES AND LINKS JANUARY 2021

PETER AND THE WOLF

This half term we will be learning about a wonderful story set to music by the Russian composer Sergei Prokofiev. It tells of a young boy, bored of being stuck at home, who decides to go exploring. Each character in the story is represented by a different instrument of the orchestra.

Here is a link to a video which was made during the first lockdown by an orchestra and their families at their homes. The story is told by Alexander Armstrong from the TV show Pointless. It lasts for 30 minutes – you don't have to watch it all at once!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6fBjh42PQdk>

And here is a link to watch a shorter video showing Walt Disney meeting Sergei Prokofiev, who played all of his musical ideas about the piece on a rickety old piano.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W1_uEbGJtnY

And if you would like to find out more about the instruments of the orchestra have a look at the videos from Albert's Band on the Royal Albert Hall website.

<https://www.royalalberthall.com/about-the-hall/news/2020/april/meet-the-orchestra-with-alberts-band/>

Peter and the Wolf is a piece of orchestral music written by Sergei Prokofiev. This piece contains a children's story and as the narrator speaks, the orchestra accompanies them. The composer uses a different instrument and melodic motif for each character. This type of music is called programme music because the music specifically represents the characters and is used to make the story come to life.

Sergei Prokofiev (1891 – 1953)

Prokofiev was a Russian composer who wrote his first piece of music aged 5. He went on to study music at St Petersburg Conservatoire aged 13 where he was taught by some of the best Russian composers of the time such as Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov (*The Flight of the Bumblebee*). Some of Prokofiev's famous works include the ballets *Romeo and Juliet* and *Cinderella*. He also wrote operas and many works for orchestra, the violin, and the piano.

In 1936, the Children's Theatre in Moscow asked Prokofiev to write a new symphony for children. They wanted a piece of music that would appeal to children and create an interest in orchestral music. Prokofiev wrote the story and music in just four days! It was first performed in 1936 but did not attract very much attention. Today, it is one of the most well-known and well-loved pieces of orchestral music.