

Composer Profile: Sergei Prokofiev

1 Sergei Sergeyevich Prokofiev was born 27 April 1891 Sontsovka, Ukraine, Russian Empire

2 Prokofiev died on the 5 March 1953 Moscow, Russia, U.S.S.R.

3 Prokofiev was a Russian Soviet composer, pianist and conductor.

THE FACTS

4 He wrote seven completed operas, seven symphonies, eight ballets, five piano concertos, two violin concertos, a cello concerto, a symphony-concerto for cello and orchestra, and nine completed piano sonatas.

5 In the summer of 1917, Prokofiev composed his first symphony, the Classical, which was written, he said, in the style that Haydn would have used if he had been alive.

Notable pieces:

- Romeo & Juliet (The Apprentice Theme Tune)
- Symphony No. 1 "The Classical Symphony"
- Peter & the Wolf
- Piano Concerto No.1
- Violin Concerto No.1



In 1948, the government banned the performance of Prokofiev's compositions, along with those of other composers whose works didn't fit the Soviet ideal.



Sergei Prokofiev

Prokofiev was already considering making an opera from Tolstoy's War and Peace when Germany invaded Russia on 22 June 1941. The conflict spurred him on and he took two years to compose his original version.



Prokofiev was a composer during the 20th Century Period

Prokofiev recorded his third Piano Concerto with the London Symphony Orchestra.

On 28 June, HRH Prince George (later the Duke of Kent) visited the studios and 'left immediately, perhaps astonished by the slightly aggressive style of the music.



Prokofiev and Stravinsky were friends, although Prokofiev did not enjoy Stravinsky's later works. Stravinsky modestly described Prokofiev as the greatest Russian composer of his day, after himself.



Prokofiev died at the age of 61 on 5 March 1953, the day Stalin's death was announced. For three days as the throngs gathered to mourn Stalin, it was impossible to carry Prokofiev's body out of his home for burial.



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