**Peter and the Wolf**

“Peter and the Wolf” was written by the Russian composer, Sergei Prokofiev (1891-1953). Living through the Russian Revolution, and Stalin’s U.S.S.R., Prokofiev and other composers of his generation, faced the constant scrutiny of their work by the Soviet State. Prokofiev composed numerous works, but in order to please the government, he was careful to choose subject matter that would be considered politically “safe”. He is best remembered for his popular ballets, “Romeo and Juliet” and “Cinderella”, and even more so for his children’s music, of which the best known piece is “Peter and the Wolf”. “Peter and the Wolf” tells the story of a young boy, Peter, who sneaks out of his grandfather’s cabin to play with his animal friends, a cat, a bird and a duck, when a wolf suddenly comes upon them! Clever Peter, however, is able to catch the wolf and save his friends. The story is told by using different instruments of the orchestra to represent each character. Originally composed for orchestra with narrator, “Peter and the Wolf” has also been turned into a children’s ballet.



