



# Kinder Concert

“O is for Orchestra”



CANTON  
SYMPHONY  
ORCHESTRA  
GERHARDT ZIMMERMANN  
MUSIC DIRECTOR

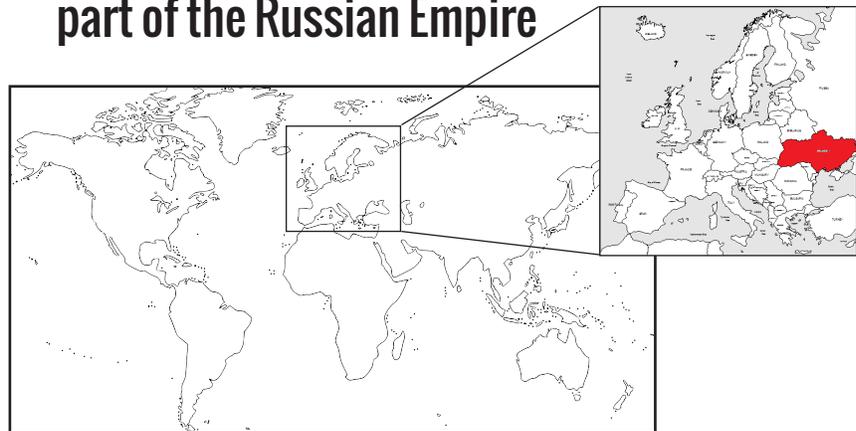


## Sergei Prokofiev

1891-1953

“Troika” from “Lieutenant Kije”

- Born in Ukraine, when it was part of the Russian Empire



- Wrote his first music at the age of 5, composed his first opera at the age of 9 and entered the St. Petersburg Conservatory at the age of 13.
- As well as the unusual musical abilities he displayed as a young child, by the age of seven he also learned to play chess.
- Much like music, chess would remain a passion his entire life and he became good enough to compete against a number of world champions in his day.
- Although he wrote many symphonies, concertos, ballets and film music he may be most famous as the composer of the familiar, musical story, “Peter and the Wolf”.

### Definition:

**Troika** - a carriage or sleigh pulled by 3 horses.

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## “Troika” from “Lieutenant Kije”

### Classroom Activities



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## Music Standards

### Kindergarten

3CE - Listen to and explore the music of various styles, composers, periods and cultures.

1PR - Demonstrate same and different (e.g. fast/slow, loud/soft, high/low, and long/short).

2PR - Demonstrate a steady beat and maintain it while performing.

## Procedure

- Suggested listening link:  
[Troika from Lieutenant Kije](https://youtu.be/7GUzJ7fQBtg) <https://youtu.be/7GUzJ7fQBtg>
- If students listen to part of the piece before being told what it is about, they will likely guess something to do with winter or sleighs because of the use of sleigh bells in the music.
- Discuss what makes a troika unique/special (see definition on previous page). Divide the students into groups of 4. Have one student stand by a chair and the other three stand in front of the chair. The three in front will pretend to be the horses. The child by the chair will pretend to be the driver of the sleigh.
- When the music begins, have the driver climb up onto the seat as the slow introduction is played. Then, when the jingle bells start, the team of 3 will start jogging in place. Do this only for about 30 seconds. Stop the piece. Have students switch roles until every child has gotten a turn being driver.
- Listen to the piece again. Ask the students if they can tell by the music that the troika has entered a section of woods. (This happens at about 1:00 in the music, when the tonality changes to minor, the instrumentation diminishes, and the music gets softer/more quiet).
- Also ask them to listen for a place where it sounds like the sleigh almost runs into another sleigh (1:45 into the piece, where there is a sudden loud discord that suggests that something just happened.)
- Discuss the word troika. It sounds somewhat like the word “trike” which is short for tricycle. How many wheels does a tricycle have? Three. How many horses does a troika have? Three. A group of three musicians playing together is a trio. Even in different languages, there are often common roots.
- It might be fun to have the students draw pictures of a scene they see in their imaginations as they listen on subsequent occasions.
- Also have the students listen for the musical appearance of the smallest woodwind in the orchestra: the piccolo. Show a picture of the piccolo next to a flute. Compare and contrast the two instruments. If possible, also compare and contrast the sound and ranges of each instrument.

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## Flute vs. Piccolo

