

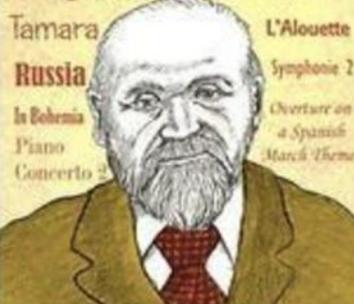
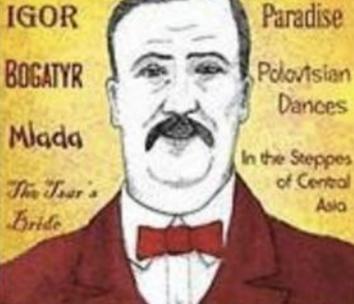
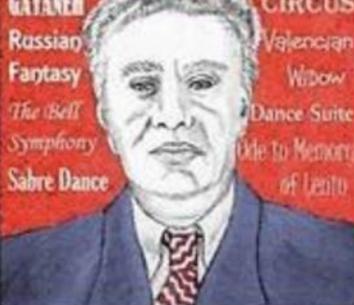
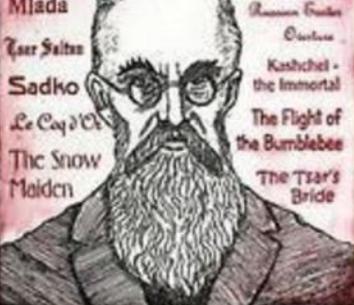
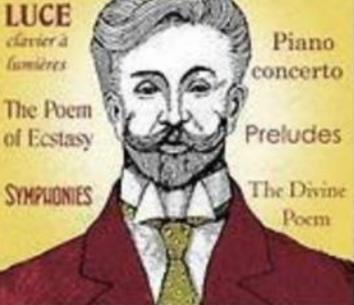
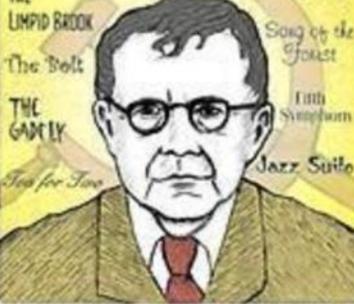
# U3A Classical Music Lovers B

presented by Carol Chetwynd

## From Russia with Love – Part 2

28 November 2024

Continuing my presentation for the Russian composers, today we listen to the music of  
**Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninov, Stravinsky, Prokofiev, Shostakovich**

 <p><i>King Lear</i> ISLAMEY            Tamara L'Alouette  <b>Russia</b> Symphonie 2  <i>In Bohemia</i> Overture on a Spanish March Theme            Piano Concerto 2</p>	 <p>PRINCE IGOR Stranger in Paradise  <b>BOGATYR</b> Polovtsian Dances  <i>Mlada</i> In the Steppes of Central Asia  <i>The Tsar's Bride</i></p>	 <p>RUSLAN &amp; LYUDMILA Kamarinskaya            Prince Kholmsky Valse Fantaisie  <i>Gouvanis d'une nuit d'été</i> Jota  <b>IVAN</b> Aragoosa  <b>SUSANIN</b> Polka in B  <i>Souvenir of a Night in Madrid</i></p>
<p><b>BALAKIREV</b> <b>BORODIN</b> <b>GLINKA</b></p>		
 <p>MASQUERADE SPARTACUS  <b>GAYANER</b> CIRCUS            Russian Valencian            Fantasy Widow  <i>The Bell</i> Dance Suite            Symphony Ode to Memory of Lenin            Sabre Dance</p>	 <p>Pictures of an Exhibition Night on the Bald Mountain  <b>BORIS</b> Sunless  <b>GODUNOV</b> DORISHTINA  <i>The Nursery</i> Songs &amp; Dances of Death  <i>Sorokhally Fair</i></p>	 <p>Peter &amp; the Wolf Romeo &amp; Juliet            Cinderella The Gambler  <i>Alexander Nevsky</i> American Overture            Symphony No.7 Piano Concerto No.6  <i>The Love for Three Oranges</i> Maddalena</p>
<p><b>KHACHATURIAN</b> <b>MUSSORGSKY</b> <b>PROKOFIEV</b></p>		
 <p>Symphonies Rhapsody on a Theme by Paganini  <b>Aleko</b> Spring            The Bells Piano Concertos  <i>Isle of the Dead</i> The Reek            Francesca da Rimini</p>	 <p><i>Cherubim</i> Capriccio Espagnol  <b>Mlada</b> Russian Easter Overture  <i>Tsar Saltan</i> Kashchel - the Immortal  <b>Sadko</b> The Flight of the Bumblebee  <i>Le Coq d'Or</i> The Tsar's Bride            The Snow Maiden</p>	 <p>MYSTERIUM Prometheus  <b>LUCE</b> Piano concerto  <i>Clavier à lumières</i> Preludes            The Poem of Ecstasy The Divine Poem            SYMPHONIES</p>
<p><b>RACHMANINOFF</b> <b>RIMSKY-KORSAKOV</b> <b>SCRIABIN</b></p>		
 <p>Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk The Golden Age  <b>THE LIMPID BROOK</b> Song of the Forest            The Bolt Fifth Symphonies  <b>THE GAMELY</b> Jazz Suite  <i>Sea for Two</i></p>		 <p><i>1812 Overture</i> Sleeping Beauty            Eugene Onegin Romeo &amp; Juliet  <b>Capriccio Italien</b> 1812 Overture            Francesca da Rimini Hamlet  <b>Swan Lake</b> Menuet de Czardas            Symphonique Queen of Spades            Santa Monfred</p>
<p><b>SHOSTAKOVICH</b> <b>STRAVINSKY</b> <b>TCHAIKOVSKY</b></p>		



### **Tchaikovsky 1840 – 1893**

Probably most renowned of all Russian composers. Educated for the Civil Service. Father managed an iron works. Another composer keen to preserve Russian folk music.

[André Rieu - Capriccio Italien 2015](#) 3,37

Marche slave – openly patriotic. In June 1876, Russia was supporting Serbia in their war against the Ottoman Empire. This piece of music was commissioned by the Russian Military Society for a Red Cross Society concert for the benefit of Serbian wounded soldiers. This piece often paired with 1812 Overture.

[Marche Slave - Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra](#) 9.20

Writing music for children:

[The New Doll, Op 39, 6](#) 54 secs

[The Sick Doll, Op 39, 7](#) 1.30

[The Doll's Burial, Op 39, 8](#) 1.55

Ballet written in 1889 . Based on Brother's Grimm fairy tale. Includes lots of other characters: Puss in Boots, Little Red Riding Hood, Cinderella etc.

[Waltz from The Sleeping Beauty \(ballet by Marius Petipa\)](#) 5.38



### **Rachmaninov 1873 – 1943**

One of the finest pianists of his day. Born in Novgorod, Left Russia during the 1917 revolution and settled in New York. (Pretended to be going to do a concert in Finland as a way of escaping.) Suffered from depression. Died from melanoma. Influenced by Wagner – used the modern arrangement of orchestra players using a pit under the stage and the custom of standing while conducting. Wrote a lot of liturgical music but some of it was banned because it did not follow the format of a typical church service. Supported Russia financially during WW11.

[Rhapsody On A Theme of Paganini: Variation 18 \(S.Rattle\)](#) 2.46

[Vespers: VII Glory to God in the Highest | Choir of King's College London](#) 2.27

Valentina Lasitsa: A Ukranian born supporter of Putin! Many world wide performances cancelled. Kyiv born but recently took Russian citizenship.

[Valentina Lisitsa St Pancras International - Prelude in G minor](#) 2.53

[Prelude in C Sharp Minor – Johann Zhao](#) 3.45

### **The Bells**

A choral symphony, words from a poem by Edgar Allen Poe. Rachmaninov's favourite composition. Conducted by Sir Simon Rattle with the Berlin Philharmonic orchestra. British conductor with German citizenship. (2021).

Political: Rattle beat Barenboim to the post of conductor, attacked the British attitude to culture and criticized the state funding of culture in the UK.

[The Bells / Rattle · Berliner Philharmoniker](#) 2.46



## **Stravinsky 1882 – 1971**

He studied music under Rimsky Korsakov. Integrated Russian folk music with tango, waltz, ragtime. Married illegally to his first cousin – this relationship banned in Russian Orthodoxy. Friends with Diaghilev (founder of Ballet Russe) for whom he wrote Firebird. Also life long friend of Debussy. Moved to Us in 1939

[Infernal Dance from The Firebird // Sir Simon Rattle & LSO](#) 4.39

### **Ballet Petrushka. (Punch)**

The story of the love and jealousies of three puppets: The Moor, the Ballerina and Petrushka. Brought to life by the Charlatan. Rejected by the ballerina infavour of the Moor Petrushka challenges him to a duel. When Petrushka is killed the Charlatan reminds everybody the he is actually only a puppet!

#### **Two interpretations of the same piece**

**A.** Nureyev plays part of Petrushka, Moor is a made up white dancer

**B.** Moor is a dark skinned dancer

[Petrushka \(1911 original score\)](#) 3.17

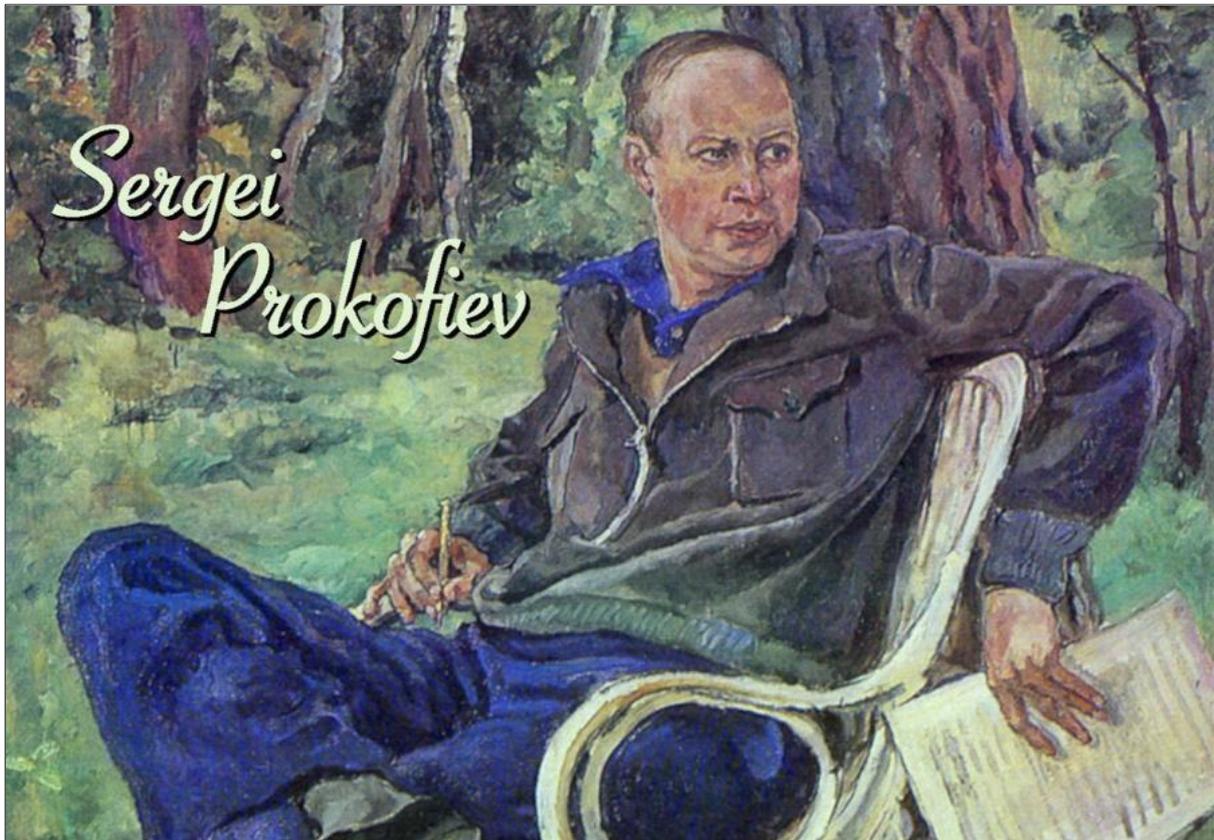
### **The Rite of Spring**

Written for Diaghilev's Ballet Russe. Described as 'a musical-choreographic work representing pagan Russia unified by the mystery and great surge of the creative power of spring'. Also described as Soviet propaganda at its best!

[The Rite of Spring \(Danse des adolescentes\)](#) 3.09

Stravinsky had a whimsical side to him, he sets the **Owl and the Pussycat** to music!

[Hutchinson: The Owl and the Pussycat at Leeds Lieder Festival 2016](#) 2.57



### **Prokofiev 1891 – 1953**

A graduate of the St. Petersburg conservatory. He left Russia after the 1917 revolution to study first in Paris then in the US. The 1930's Great Depression made it hard for him to stage his ballets and operas, so he returned to Russia where his work was censored by the Russian Association of Proletarian Musicians! He was commissioned to compose **Hail to Stalin** for Stalin's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday!

[Romeo and Juliet Dance of the Knights | Marquee TV](#) 1.47

Cinderella ballet composed between 1940 and 1944 and premiered in 1945. Noted for its lush scenery and jubilant music. Disney version follows!

[Cinderella: Dutch National Ballet \(Christopher Wheeldon/Sergei Prokofiev\)](#) 2.23  
Abrupt ending

[Disney's Cinderella Waltz](#) 3.46

### **Peter and the Wolf**

Peter (Young Pioneers) is scolded by his grandfather for playing outside his garden for fear the wolf might catch him. Peter doesn't think this can happen so goes out anyway along with the duck, the bird and the cat. Each animal is represented by a different tune. The duck gets swallowed by the bird and Peter tries to rescue him. Meanwhile the hunters have been tracking the wolf but instead of shooting him Peter persuades them to take the wolf to a zoo instead. (May Day celebrations)

Younger members of the Royal ballet. As each character introduces themselves they gradually spell out the word PETER.

[Peter and the Wolf - Pierino e il lupo. Part 1](#) 5.00

Dancers spell out word Peter. Abrupt ending too!



## Shostakovich 1906 – 1975

Worked very much under the pressures of government imposed standards. Stalin's five year plan demanded a direct and patriotic style of music. Jazz had been officially banned. His first opera had been condemned by Stalin after its first performance and had to be withdrawn. So his music had to become sombre to gain success. After the second world war however he was left to pursue his career largely unaffected by official interference.

Frenzied cello player, **Andrei Ionut Ionita**. Frenzied piece! Cello concerto. Last piece of music he wrote. Romanian cellist.

[#TCH15 - Cello Final Round: Andrei Ionuț Ioniță](#) 5.57

[Piano Concerto No 2, II 'Andante', solo piano arr. by Hetty Sponselee](#) 6.46

[Waltz No. 2 - Klassik Open Air 2015 Nuremberg \(TV\)](#) 4.27

## The Nose

**The Nose** was set to music by Shostakovich from an original story by **Nikolai Gogol** who apparently had an unusual nose! A barber cuts a loaf in half and finds a nose inside. It turns out to belong to one of his customers, Major Kovalyov. He wraps it in a cloth and throws it into the River Neva. Meanwhile the major notices his nose is missing. On his way to report it he sees his nose dressed up as a high ranking official pretending to be a human. He tries to catch the nose (various escapades). The nose is eventually returned but cannot be reattached. A few more escapades ensue and eventually the nose is reattached!

[The Nose – The 2<sup>nd</sup> Waltz - Cartoon](#) 3.02

[The giant tap-dancing noses scene from The Nose \(The Royal Opera\)](#) 3.30

The story is a spoof on obsession with social rank after Peter the Great introduced his Table of Ranks during the 17<sup>th</sup> century. By allowing commoners to gain nobility a huge population had been given the chance to move up the ranks.