



COMPOSER BIOGRAPHY

**SERGEI PROKOFIEV**

BORN: April 23, 1891

ERA/STYLE: Modern Classical

DIED: March 5, 1953

HOMETOWN: Sontsivka, Ukraine

Sergei Prokofiev was born in Russia in 1891. His mother was an accomplished pianist and was his first teacher. He was a bubbly, mischievous child with a lively sense of humor. Prokofiev showed great musical ability, and by the age of 5 was composing piano music. His talent continued to develop and at 13 he was accepted into the St. Petersburg Conservatory of Music. At the Conservatory Prokofiev studied theory and composition. During his time in school, he composed many exciting piano works.

Prokofiev left Russia in 1918, visited Japan, and eventually moved to the United States. In America, Prokofiev met a young singer, Lina Llubera, who became his wife. They had two sons. Prokofiev performed as piano soloist with some of America's finest orchestras and his reputation as composer and virtuoso pianist became well known in the United States and abroad. In 1920, he moved to Paris, where many of his works were performed. In the 1930s, the Great Depression decreased opportunities for the composer in the United States and Europe, and he increasingly turned to the Soviet Union for more work. Prokofiev eventually returned to his homeland in 1936.

Prokofiev wrote music in a variety of forms: chamber music, cantatas, music for the movies and theater, sonatas, concertos for various instruments, operas, and symphonies. One of his most popular compositions is *Peter and the Wolf*. He was a respected modern composer who made a great contribution to 20th-century music.