

Speaking

Set 1 Student 1

Preparation – 15 minutes

Presentation and questions – 10 minutes

Task 1

**MUSIC, THE UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE OF THE MUSES, DOES NOT
NEED TO BE TRANSLATED**

1. Monologue: Time 2-3 minutes

Your English School Club plans to visit a musical concert and you are to propose some music pieces of a famous Russian composer to your school mates that are worth listening to. You have to present the information about the composer and his music (**Set 1: Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky**) to the fellow students to persuade them to attend the concert of this composer.

Speak about:

The Composer's Life	Music Style
Essential Pieces	Cultural Recognition

You can make notes during the preparation time, but YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO READ them during the presentation.

2. Questions/ Answers: Time: 2- 3 minutes

Answer 2 QUESTIONS from your partner, who wants to get ADDITIONAL INFORMATION not mentioned in your presentation about the composer and his music from the fact file.

Task 2

1. Listen to the presentation of your partner (**Set 2: Alexander Borodin**).

2. Questions/ Answers: Time: 2- 3 minutes

Ask 2 QUESTIONS about the composer and his music to get ADDITIONAL INFORMATION not mentioned in the presentation

YOUR ANSWERS WILL BE RECORDED

Set 1. Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

<p>The Composer's Life</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Russian composer, polyglot, bibliophile (1840 – 1893) • <u>Born:</u> Votkinsk, (Udmurtia), <u>died:</u> St. Petersburg • <u>Education:</u> Started composing at 4, had piano lessons at 5; 1850 -1859 the Imperial School of Jurisprudence in St. Petersburg; 1861 Russian Musical Society classes in music theory, 1862 St. Petersburg Conservatory studying with Zarembo and with Rubenstein. • <u>Career:</u> 1859 civil service titular counselor at the Ministry of Justice; 1865 Professor of Music Theory at Moscow Conservatory (Music was his 2-nd career) • Promoted Russian music as a conductor in Russia, Europe, the USA, though had stage fright • Nadezhda von Meck, a railway magnate's widow, who never met him, was his best friend and patroness for 13 years • Tsar Alexander II, his admirer, in 1884 honored Tchaikovsky with the Order of St. Vladimir, later granted him a lifetime pension and gifted him an expensive ring
<p>Essential Pieces</p>	<p>The most prominent Romantic composer, Tchaikovsky displayed a wide stylistic and emotional range, from light salon works to grand symphonies. Best known for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ballets (<i>Swan Lake</i>, which was a flop at the premiere), <i>The Nutcracker</i>, <i>The Sleeping Beauty</i> • Symphonies (<i>The 3rd</i>, <i>The 4th</i>, <i>The 5th</i>, <i>The 6th 'Pathetique'</i>) • Overtures (<i>1812 Overture</i>, <i>Romeo and Juliet Fantasy - Overture</i>) • Operas (<i>Eugene Onegin</i>, <i>The Dame of Spades</i>) • Concerts (<i>Piano Concerto No.1</i> , <i>Violin Concerto in D Major</i>)
<p>Music Style</p>	<p>Tchaikovsky's Romantic music combines beautiful melodies, impressive harmonies and colorful orchestrations. "Sweet, inexhaustible, supersensuous fund of melody" ensured success with audiences (Harold Schonberg, American music critic). He used both Western-style melodies and original Russian folk song melodies. His recognizable melodies demonstrate perfect technique in composition.</p>
<p>Cultural Recognition</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tchaikovsky was a pioneer in several ways. Thanks to his patroness he became the first full-time professional Russian composer, which allowed him freedom to consolidate the Western compositional practices he had learned at the St. Petersburg Conservatory with Russian folk song and other native musical elements to fulfill his own expressive goals and forge an original, deeply personal style. • He made an impact in not only absolute works such as the symphony but also program music and transformed Liszt's and Berlioz's achievements into matters of Shakespearean elevation and psychological import. • Tchaikovsky produced music that reflected Russian national character in accordance with the highest European standards of quality. • Tchaikovsky was inspired to reach beyond Russia with his music. This mindset made him think seriously about Russia's place in European musical culture. • The first Russian composer to acquaint foreign audiences personally with his own work. • The composer's achievements, his music in historical perspective, could be compared to the sole bridge connecting different cultures.

Speaking

Set 2 Student 2

Preparation – 15 minutes

Presentation and questions – 10 minutes

Task 1

**MUSIC, THE UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE OF THE MUSES, DOES NOT
NEED TO BE TRANSLATED**

1. **Listen** to the presentation of your partner (**Set 1: Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky**).
2. **Questions/ Answers: Time: 2- 3 minutes**

Ask 2 QUESTIONS about the composer and his music to get **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION** not mentioned in the presentation.

Task 2

1. Monologue: Time 2-3 minutes

Your English School Club plans to visit a musical concert and you are to propose some music pieces of a famous Russian composer to your school mates that are worth listening to. You have to present the information about the composer and his music (**Set 2: Alexander Borodin**) to the fellow students to persuade them to attend the concert of this composer.

Speak about:

The Composer's Life	Music Style
Essential Pieces	Cultural Recognition

You can make notes during the preparation time, but **YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO READ** them during the presentation.

2. Questions/ Answers: Time: 2- 3 minutes

Answer **2 QUESTIONS** from your partner, who wants to get **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION** not mentioned in your presentation about the composer and his music from the fact file.

YOUR ANSWERS WILL BE RECORDED

Set 2. Alexander Porfirievich Borodin

<p>The Composer's Life</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Russian composer, prominent chemist (1833 – 1887) • <u>Born:</u> St. Petersburg; <u>died:</u> St. Petersburg • <u>Education:</u> excellent home education with private tutors; 1850 Medical-Surgical Academy in St. Petersburg; 1859 - 1861 Advanced scientific study in western Europe; 1862 taking lessons in compositions from Mily Balakirev • <u>Career:</u> a chemist; a military hospital surgeon; Professorship of Chemistry at the Imperial Medical-Surgical Academy in St. Petersburg (1862), made early contributions to organic chemistry; Music was his secondary vocation besides his main career as a chemist and physician, he composed in his free time. • Married a pianist Ekaterina Protopopova (1863) • Was a promoter of education in Russia, in 1872 established the School of Medicine for Women in St. Petersburg
<p>Essential Pieces</p>	<p>A Romantic composer was one of the prominent 19th-century Russian composers known as "The Five", a group dedicated to producing a uniquely Russian kind of classical music.</p> <p>Best known for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Symphonies • String Quartets • The symphonic poem <i>In the Steppes of Central Asia</i> • Opera: <i>Prince Igor</i> contains the <i>Polotsian Dances</i> (was completed posthumously, later was adapted into the musical <i>Kismet in 1953</i>) <p>He died suddenly leaving many of his works incomplete</p>
<p>Music Style</p>	<p>Borodin's Romantic music combines beautiful melodies, impressive harmonies in traditional Russian harmonic structures.</p> <p>His recognizable melodies demonstrate perfect technique in composition. Borodin based the thematic structure and instrumental texture of his pieces on strong lyricism and rich harmonies.</p> <p>Along with some influences from Western composers, as a member of The Five his music has also a Russian style. His passionate music and unusual harmonies proved to have a lasting influence on the younger French composers Debussy and Ravel (in homage, the latter composed during 1913 a piano piece entitled "À la manière de Borodine").</p>
<p>Cultural Recognition</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creative work of Borodin constitutes the pride of the Russian classical music. • It had a huge impact on many generations of Russian and foreign composers (including Glazunov, S. Prokofiev, K. Debussy, M. Ravel and others). • Borodin's fame outside the Russian Empire was made possible during his lifetime by famous musicians performing his music. • The evocative characteristics of Borodin's music—specifically <i>In the Steppes of Central Asia</i>, his Symphony No. 2, <i>Prince Igor</i>—made possible the adaptation of his compositions in the 1953 musical <i>Kismet</i>, by Robert Wright and George Forrest, notably in the songs "Stranger in Paradise", "And This Is My Beloved" and "Baubles, Bangles, & Beads". • In 1954, Borodin was posthumously awarded a Tony Award for the show <i>Kismet</i>, based on Borodin's music

Speaking

Set 3 Student 1

Preparation – 15 minutes

Presentation and questions – 10 minutes

Task 1

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1. Monologue: Time 2-3 minutes

Your English School Club plans to visit a musical concert and you are to propose some music pieces of a famous Russian composer to your school mates that are worth listening to. You have to present the information about the composer and his music (*Set 3: Aram Khachaturian*) to the fellow students to persuade them to attend the concert of this composer.

Speak about:

The Composer's Life	Music Style
Essential Pieces	Cultural Recognition

You can make notes during the preparation time, but YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO READ them during the presentation.

2. Questions/ Answers: Time: 2- 3 minutes

Answer 2 QUESTIONS from your partner, who wants to get ADDITIONAL INFORMATION not mentioned in your presentation about the composer and his music from the fact file.

Task 2

1. Listen to the presentation of your partner (*Set 4: Dmitri Shostakovich*).

2. Questions/ Answers: Time: 2- 3 minutes

Ask 2 QUESTIONS about the composer and his music to get ADDITIONAL INFORMATION not mentioned in the presentation

YOUR ANSWERS WILL BE RECORDED

Set 3. Aram Ilyich Khachaturian

The Composer's Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soviet composer, conductor (1903 – 1978) • <u>Born:</u> Tiflis; <u>died:</u> Moscow • 1921: Moved to Moscow • <u>Education:</u> 1922 - 1927 Gnesin Music School (private composition class with Gnesin), 1929 - 1934 - Moscow Conservatory • <u>Career:</u> Professor at the Gnesin Institute and Moscow Conservatory, conductor, the Secretary of the Union of Soviet Composers (1957 - 1978), Conducting appearances in Europe, Latin America, the US with his own concerts (from 1950)
Essential Pieces	<p>Best known for composing concert and theatric music:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ballets: <i>Gayane (with renowned Sabre Dance), Spartacus</i> • 3 Symphonies (1935,1943,1947) • Concertos: <i>Piano Concerto, , Violin Concerto, Cello Concerto</i> • <i>Anthem of the Armenian Republic</i> • <i>25 film scores</i> <p>His other works include songs, piano pieces, and chamber music.</p>
Music Style	<p>Khachaturian's Classical and Avant-Garde music styles draw on the melodic and rhythmic vitality of Armenian folk music. He never strayed from a basically diatonic musical language. His style is characterized by impressive colorful harmonies, captivating rhythms, combining beautiful sensuous melodies, virtuosity, improvisations and powerful orchestrations. It has been used extensively in popular culture and has been performed by a number of musicians worldwide.</p> <p>The Piano Concerto and the Violin Concerto in D Minor are truly Romantic works, virtuosic, clear, and unaffectedly expressive, remaining popular and frequently performed. The popularity the "<i>Sabre Dance</i>" from the ballet <i>Gayane</i>, which made Khachaturian a household name during World War II, is still most widely recognized and performed all over the world by outstanding musicians. Blending national Armenian vocal and instrumental intonations with contemporary orchestral techniques makes Khachaturian unique among Soviet composers.</p>
Cultural Recognition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 20th century icon and a key figure of Soviet-Armenian pride (His proletariat origins, non-Russian ethnic origins and Soviet training made him a powerful symbol within the Soviet musical establishment of the ideal of a multinational Soviet cultural identity, an identity which the composer enthusiastically embraced and exploited both at home and abroad.) • Earned world-wide recognition, is a national treasure, celebrated by the Russian and Armenian people. • One of the leading composers of the Soviet era alongside Dmitri Shostakovich and Sergei Prokofiev. • Has become known to the wider international public. • The most renowned Soviet-Armenian composer of the 20th century, and the most famous representative of Soviet-Armenian culture, the "Armenian Tchaikovsky". • The musical ambassador of Armenian culture (the only Armenian composer to rise to international significance, who is credited for bringing Armenian music worldwide recognition).

Speaking

Set 4 Student 2

Preparation – 15 minutes

Presentation and questions – 10 minutes

Task 1

**MUSIC, THE UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE OF THE MUSES, DOES NOT
NEED TO BE TRANSLATED**

- 1. Listen** to the presentation of your partner (*Set 3: Aram Khachaturian*).
- 2. Questions/ Answers: Time: 2- 3 minutes**

Ask 2 QUESTIONS about the composer and his music to get **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION** not mentioned in the presentation.

Task 2

1. Monologue: Time 2-3 minutes

Your English School Club plans to visit a musical concert and you are to propose some music pieces of a famous Russian composer to your school mates that are worth listening to. You have to present the information about the composer and his music (*Set 4: Dmitri Shostakovich*) to the fellow students to persuade them to attend the concert of this composer.

Speak about:

The Composer's Life	Music Style
Essential Pieces	Cultural Recognition

You can make notes during the preparation time, but **YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO READ** them during the presentation.

2. Questions/ Answers: Time: 2- 3 minutes

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YOUR ANSWERS WILL BE RECORDED

Set 4. Dmitri Shostakovich

The Composer's Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soviet composer, pianist (1906 – 1975) • <u>Born</u>: St. Petersburg; <u>died</u>: Moscow • <u>Education</u>: Piano lessons at 9, 1919 - 1925 the Petrograd Conservatory (at 13) • 1943: moved to Moscow • <u>Career</u>: 1937 – 1941 the Leningrad Conservatory Professor of composition, 1945 a concert pianist and composer, 1960 – 1968 the Chairman of the Union of Composers in the Russian Socialist Federative Republic • Performed all over Russia, Europe, the USA
Essential Pieces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Symphonies: <i>The 1st, The 2nd, The 5th, The 7th Symphony</i> (that was performed in besieged Leningrad is the most famous wartime contribution), <i>the 8th 'Stalingrad Symphony', The 10th, The 13th, The 15th</i> (melodic and retrospective in nature) • Chamber Music: <i>Second Piano Trio, The 4th String Quartet, The 8th String Quartet</i> • Operas: <i>The Nose, Lady MacBeth of Mtsenks</i> • Ballets: <i>The Limpid Stream, Katerina Izmailova</i> • Concerts: <i>Violin Concerto No.1, Waltz No.2 (Russian Waltz)</i> • Song cycles: <i>From Jewish Folk Poetry</i> • Overtures: <i>Festive Overture, opus 96</i> (played at Summer Olympics in 1980 and 2004)
Music Style	<p>Shostakovich's music is distinctively characterized by sharp contrasts, elements of the grotesque, and ambivalent tonality; it was also heavily influenced by the Neo-Classical style pioneered by Igor Stravinsky, and (especially in his symphonies) by Neoclassicism and the late Romanticism of Gustav Mahler. It is frequently quite Classical in structure, yet not in a strict sense. It is also highly Romantic in its way of delving deep into emotions, yet it uses frivolity or sarcasm. The extreme use of parody and irony can be quite striking and modern. Shostakovich's music represents something of a synthesis of elements from different musical periods. Shostakovich succeeded in forging a musical language of colossal emotional power.</p> <p>Shostakovich's music shows the influence of many composers he admired: Bach, Beethoven, Mahler, Berg, Mussorgsky, Prokofiev, as well as Russian church and folk music. His Avant-Garde style had a deliberate technique to allow him to create patterns of contrast, repetition, exaggeration that gave his music large-scale structure.</p>
Cultural Recognition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 20-th century Soviet composer in the tradition of Tchaikovsky, influenced by Stravinsky and Mahler among others. Yet the music is his own, not theirs. • Shostakovich wrote some of the most powerful – and cryptic – music of the 20th century, the wealth of his musical legacy is beyond doubt. • The music of Shostakovich has never been more widely played or more consistently popular than it is today. <p>National and international awards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 Soviet awards, including Lenin Prize (1958 – for the Symphony No. 11 "The Year 1905") • United Kingdom: Gold Medal of the Royal Philharmonic Society (1966) • Academy Award for Best Scoring of a Musical based on Musorgsky's <i>Khovanshchina</i> (1959)