



# Unit 705

## Peter and the Wolf

An introduction to listening and analysis

### Key Vocabulary

**Leitmotif** - a short musical idea (theme) linked to a person, place, or idea, often used in films or operas.

**Articulation** - the way a note is played – for example, smooth (legato) or detached (staccato).

**Orchestra** - a large group of musicians who play different instruments together, often in concerts.

**Woodwind** - instruments you blow into that are usually made of wood or metal, like the flute, clarinet, and oboe.

**Brass** - metal instruments you blow into, using your lips to make the sound, like the trumpet and trombone.

**Percussion** - instruments you hit, shake, or scrape, like drums, cymbals, and xylophones.

**Strings** - instruments with strings you can pluck or use a bow on, like the violin, cello, and guitar.

**Pitch** - how high or low a note sounds.

**Staccato** - notes that are short and detached.

**Legato** - notes that are played smoothly and connected.

**Timbre** - the unique sound or tone quality of an instrument or voice – what makes them sound different.



Sergei Prokofiev (*born April 23 [April 11, Old Style], 1891, Sontsovka, Ukraine, Russian Empire—died March 5, 1953, Moscow, Russia, U.S.S.R.*) was a Russian composer, famous for his wide variety of works, including ballets, operas, film scores, concerti, and symphonies.

Prokofiev wrote the story and music of Peter and the Wolf especially for young people. The piece features different musical themes, each representing a character. The instruments in the orchestra are carefully chosen to match the characters: for example, the bird is played by the flute, the cat by the clarinet, and the wolf by the French horn.

### You will learn to:

1. recognise music themes
2. identify instruments by timbre
3. describe what you hear