



Central Library Lawn – Children’s Concert
Friday, July 19, 2019

PROKOFIEV Peter and the Wolf, arr. John Helmich

- I. The Bird
- II. The Duck
- III. The Cat
- IV. Grandfather
- V. The Wolf
- VI. The Hunters
- VII. Peter

Sergei Prokofiev (1891-1953) was a Russian composer, pianist, and conductor. He was the creator of acknowledged masterpieces across numerous musical genres, including several intended for young listeners, and is regarded as one of the major composers of the 20th century.

Prokofiev composed Peter and the Wolf for narrator and orchestra in 1936. He completed the piano score in just a week and a short two weeks later finished the orchestral arrangement. His writing was intentionally direct and easy to follow, making the work enjoyable for children. Each character is represented by a particular instrument: the bird by a flute, the duck by an oboe, the grandfather by a bassoon, the cat by a clarinet, the wolf by three horns, and Peter by the strings. In the string quartet arrangement you will be hearing today, all of the characters will be represented by the vast colors of the violin, viola, and cello.

The work is split into three sections, based on the sonata form. The opening section, the “exposition”, introduces the characters and prepares the audience for the action that is to come. The middle section, the “development”, contains the most exciting action in the piece, beginning with the appearance of the wolf. The final section, the “recapitulation”, concludes the work with a parade of the principal characters, as well as a return of Peter’s opening theme made into a march.