

**SYMPHOMANIA!**  
DO IT YOURSELF

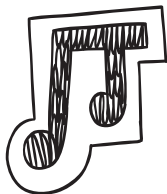
# RACHMANINOV'S PIANO CONCERTOS



Sergei Rachmaninov was born on 1 April (it's true, no joke!) 1873 in Russia.

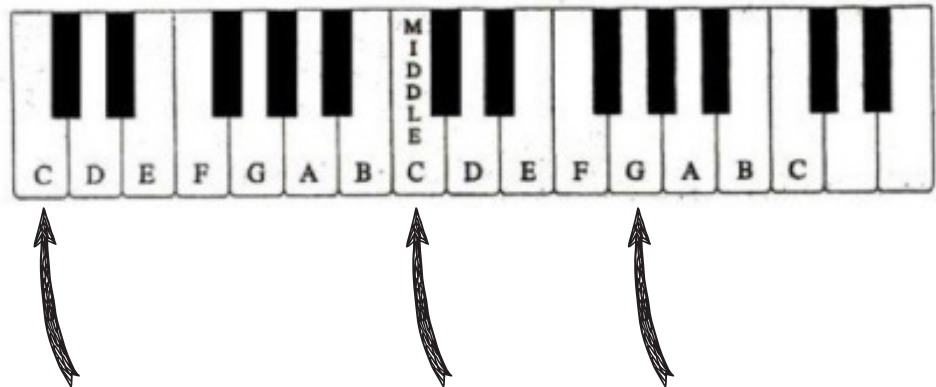


Here you can see Rachmaninov with his daughter Irina and their dog in front of their summer home in Russia. His other daughter, Tatiana, and his wife Natalia do not appear on the photo. What do you think they are doing?





Rachmaninov had extremely large hands. This allowed him to play very complex chords. He was able to reach an octave and a fifth. Can you do that?



### ACTIVITY:

Try it out on a piano: put your pinky on the C and your thumb on the following C. That's an octave - quite hard, isn't it? And if you add another fifth, that is, up to the G, you have an octave and a fifth. Who can do that??? Rachmaninov could.

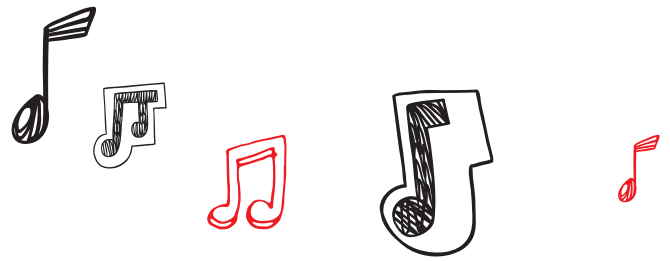


Rachmaninov wrote more than just piano music. For example, he composed songs and operas and was interested in melodies. He wrote in the Romantic style. Romantic music is all about what people feel, love and nature.



# ACTIVITY:

Create your own memory!

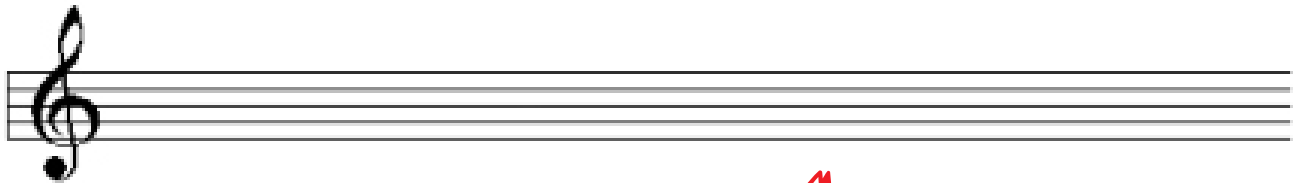


Look for a sentence that fits with what you are feeling at this moment.  
(If you can't find anything, take one from a book or newspaper)

Write the sentence here: .....

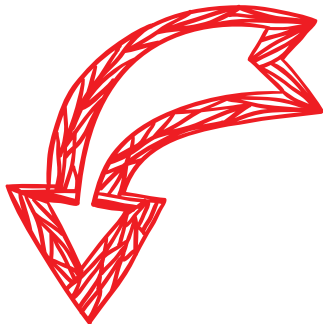
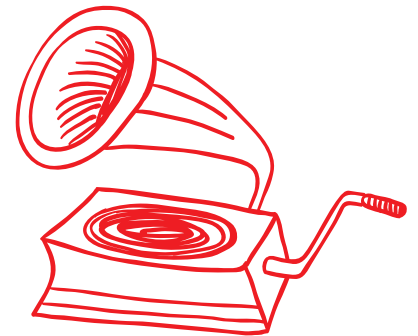
Sing the sentence aloud as if you were under the shower and no one could hear you. Try out different variations, from high to low or the other way around, with leaps or flowing, slow or fast or both...

Once you feel that the melody is working, repeat it at least 10x. Record your melody with your mobile phone or write the notes down below on the staff.



And now... just listen!

Did you know that there are different ways to listen to music? You can listen with your mind, for instance if you want to know what instruments are playing, or you can focus entirely on your feelings while listening, with your eyes open or closed, or you can listen for the different directions from which the sound is coming, you can listen while lying down or while moving about, etc.



# ACTIVITY:

Listening while watching



Run the short film

You can hear a part of Piano Concerto No 2 by Rachmaninov following the notes on the music. Can you see that there are new instruments being added, and thus new lines in the music? Put the instruments in the right order by linking them to the correct number. What do you hear first?

1.

2.

3.

4.

Flute, clarinet and French horn

Cello and double bass

Piano

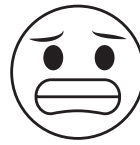
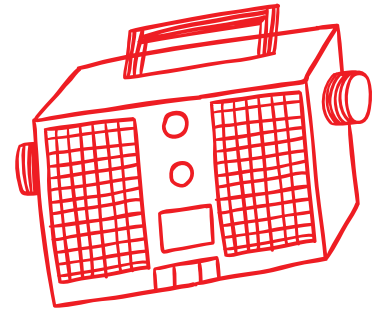
Violin

## ACTIVITY:

Listen while feeling



Turn the music on and let your pencil dance around on your sheet. If you feel that the music makes you sad, angry, scared or happy, let your pencil dance and draw closer to the appropriate emotion. Get ready for a musical journey through different feelings.



## DID YOU KNOW THAT...

You heard a part of the first piano concerto that Rachmaninov wrote? And that he was 18 years old when he finished it?



## ACTIVITY:

Listening while moving

### 1. Move like a conductor:

grab a stick and pretend there is a large orchestra in front of you and you are the conductor. If the music is soft, make small movements. Larger movements go with louder music. Can you indicate on your face and the rest of your body what feelings belong here?

### 2. Move like a musician:

Alternate between the following instruments:

French horn

Piano

Cello

Violin

There are different ways to move while listening to music. Turn the music on and choose from among the options below. You can, of course, try them all out!



### 3. Move like a dancer:

Feel free as a bird, and dance!



HAVE FUN WITH RACHMANINOV'S PIANO CONCERTOS!