Dmitri Kabalevsky
1904-1987

Dmitri Kabalevsky was born in St. Petersburg, Russia, in 1904. At an early age he studied piano and began composing piano pieces. He was also talented in painting and writing poetry. He studied general subjects at the Scriabin Institute until 1922. During the next three years, he continued teaching piano at the institute and played for silent movies.

There weren't many good teaching pieces in Russia in the 1920s, and Kabalevsky began composing pieces for his students. He believed that these pieces should be of superior quality, teaching not only basic techniques and skills, but also developing the students' artistic tastes and their creative imagination. He said that music for students should nurture their love of life, human beings, nature and their country and arouse their interest and feeling of friendship toward the peoples of other countries.

Kabalevsky felt that composers who wrote teaching music for children should have an understanding and love for children. He encouraged composers to transmit to children through music a part of not only their talent, art and experience, but also their hearts.

Kabalevsky studied piano and composition at the Moscow Conservatory from 1925-1930 and began teaching there in 1932. He held several important posts in Russian musical life including head of the music section of the Institute of Arts History. Kabalevsky was successful as a Soviet composer, but gradually became involved in the political life of the Soviet Union. He became influential as a teacher, administrator and writer. In the 1940s, he was editor of the music magazine, Sovetskaya muzika. He spoke to groups of workers and appeared on television shows, where he presented his views on musical policy in Russian, French or English. As a member of the Soviet Committee for the Defense of Peace, he traveled abroad to promote friendship between the Soviet Union and foreign countries. Despite all he did, Kabalevsky was happiest when he was composing for young people.

The following are the compositions by Dmitri Borisovich Kabalevsky, born 12/30/1904 and died 2/16/1987 at the age of 82 years, 2 months.

Opus 1 Three Preludes for piano (1925)

Opus 2 Two Pieces for cello and piano (1927)

Opus 3 Album of Children's Pieces for piano (1927-1940)

Opus 4 Three Poems after A. Blok for singer and piano (1927)

Opus 5 Four Preludes for piano (1927-1928)

Opus 6 Piano Sonata No. 1 in F major (1927)

Opus 7 Two Songs after M. Artamonov and V. Shukovski for high voice and piano (1928)

Opus 8 String Quartet No. 1 in A minor (1928)

Opus 9 Piano Concerto No. 1 in A minor (1928)

Opus 10 Three Songs after M. Gerassimov, M. Artamonov and N. Kliuyev for voice and piano (1929-1930)

Opus 11 Eight Merry Songs after V. Kataev for voice and piano (1929-1930)

Opus 12 Poem of Struggle after A. Sharov for chorus and orchestra (1930-1931)

Opus 13 No. 1*Piano Sonatina No. 1 in C major (1930)

Opus 13 No. 2*Piano Sonatina No. 2 in G minor (1933)

Opus 14 From the Life of a Pioneer, pieces for piano (1931)

Opus 15 Music to the Radiocomposition "Galitsiskaya Zacheria" after B. Yansens for solists, chorus and orchestra (1931)

Opus 16 Three Songs after E. Musam, A. Sharov and A. Surkov for low voice and piano (1931-1932)

Opus 17 Eight Songs after O. Vissotskaya, A. Prishelets ans A. Barto for children's chorus and piano (1932)

Opus 18 Symphony No. 1 in C sharp minor (1932)

Opus 19 Symphony No. 2 in C minor (1934)

Opus 20 Four Preludes for piano (1933-1934)

Opus 21 Improvisation for violin and piano (from the music of the film "Night of St. Petersburg" (1934)

Opus 22 Symphony No. 3 "Requiem" on text of N. Assayev for chorus and orchestra (1933)
Opus 23 Piano Concerto No. 2 in G minor (1935)

Opus 24 "Colas Breugnon", opera in 3 acts (1936-1938)

Opus 24A Suite from the opera "Colas Breugnon" for orchestra (1938)

Opus 25 Music to the play "Two Songs" after N. Shestakov (1937)

Opus 26 "The Comedians", suite for small orchestra (1938-1940)

Opus 27 Thirty Children's Pieces for piano (1937-1938)

Opus 28 "Golden Ears", ballet in 3 acts (1939-1940)

Opus 28A Suite from the ballet "Golden Ears" for orchestra (1939-1940)

Opus 29 Suite for jazz orchestra (1940)

Opus 30 Three Pieces for piano (1939)

Opus 31 "Parade of the Youth" for children's chorus and orchestra (1941)

Opus 32 Two Songs after A. Bezemenski and N. Vladimirski for voice and piano (1941)

Opus 33 Three Vocal-Monologues for voice and orchestra (1941)

Opus 34 Three Songs after S. Marshak for voice and piano (1941)

Opus 35 "Vast Motherland", cantata for mezzo-soprano, bass, chorus and orchestra (1941-1942)

Opus 36 "Revenger of the People", suite on text by Y. Dolmatovski for mixed chorus and orchestra (1942)

Opus 37 "In the Fire", opera in 4 acts (1942)

Opus 38 Twenty-Four Preludes for piano (dedicated to N. Miaskovsky) (1943-1944)

Opus 39 Twenty-Four Easy Pieces for piano (1944)*

Opus 40 Easy Variations for piano in D major ("Toccata") and in A minor (1944)

Opus 41 Seven Merry Songs after S. Marshak for voice and piano (1944-1945)

Opus 42 Four Funny Songs after S. Marshak and S. Michalkov for voice and piano (1945)

Opus 43 Two Russian Folk-Songs for bass or tenor and piano (1945)

Opus 43A Two Russian Folk-Songs, version for mezzo-soprano and piano (1964)

Opus 44 String Quartet No. 2 in G minor (1945)