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| Dmitri Shostakovich Exercises | museducation.org/274 | Video and exercises |

**Match terms**

*Task: Match each term with the appropriate explanation!*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| (C) | Conservatory | (1) | school for music and arts |
| (D) | Opera | (2) | extended musical composition |
| (I) | Unsocialist | (3) | former Soviet Union leader |
| (I) | Propagandist | (4) | dramatic work combining text and music |
| (N) | Stalin | (5) | not conforming to socialism |
| (N) | Irony | (6) | showing love for one’s country |
| (O) | Symphony | (7) | person spreading political ideas |
| (O) | Satire | (8) | use of humor for criticism |
| (T) | Patriotic | (9) | expression of meaning using opposite |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Keyword:** | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ |
|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |

**Complete sentences**

*Task: Match the beginning of each sentence with the end!*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| (A) | He composed several ... | (1) | ... renowned composer and pianist. |
| (C) | Shostakovich was a ... | (2) | ... Saint Petersburg in 1906. |
| (I) | Shostakovich also wrote ... | (3) | ... political and personal themes. |
| (N) | His music is now ... | (4) | ... Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk, was controversial. |
| (R) | His music often addressed ... | (5) | ... „war symphonies“ during World War II. |
| (T) | One of his works, ... | (6) | ... chamber music and concertos. |
| (U) | He was born in ... | (7) | ... performed and studied worldwide. |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Keyword:** | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ |
|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |

**Questions (multiple choice)**

*Task: Answer the questions!*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. | Where was Shostakovich born? |
| (C) | in Saint Petersburg |
| (R) | in Leningrad |
| (V) | in Moscow |
| 2. | What is Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk? |
| (A) | an opera composed by Shostakovich |
| (B) | a ballet composed by Shostakovich |
| (S) | a symphony composed by Shostakovich |
| 3. | How many symphonies did Shostakovich compose? |
| (N) | 10 |
| (R) | 15 |
| (T) | 20 |
| 4. | What did Shostakovich compose during World War II? |
| (P) | war symphonies |
| (R) | war concertos |
| (V) | war operas |
| 5. | What did Shostakovich focus on in his later years? |
| (A) | operas and ballets |
| (E) | chamber music and smaller forms |
| (S) | symphonies and larger forms |
| 6. | When did Shostakovich die? |
| (R) | in 1980 |
| (T) | in 1975 |
| (V) | in 1965 |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Keyword**: | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ |
|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

**Right or wrong?**

*Task: State whether the statements are true or false!*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| right | wrong |  |
| (F) | (V) | 1. Shostakovich was born in 1906. |
| (F) | (R) | 2. Shostakovich was born in Moscow. |
| (R) | (I) | 3. He composed 20 symphonies. |
| (E) | (R) | 4. He composed 15 symphonies. |
| (N) | (T) | 5. His music was criticized by Stalin. |
| (A) | (D) | 6. His music was praised by Stalin. |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Keyword:** | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ |
|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

**7 Questions about the text**

*Task: Answer the questions in one or two complete sentences!*

What was Shostakovich’s early education?

What is one of Shostakovich’s most controversial works?

What are Shostakovich’s „war symphonies“?

What other types of music did Shostakovich compose besides symphonies?

What was Shostakovich’s relationship with the Soviet government?

What did Shostakovich focus on in his later years?

What is Shostakovich’s significance in modern times?

**Solution sheet 1**

**Dmitri Shostakovich**

**Match terms**

Conservatory = school for music and arts

Symphony = extended musical composition

Stalin = former Soviet Union leader

Opera = dramatic work combining text and music

Unsocialist = not conforming to socialism

Patriotic = showing love for one’s country

Propagandist = person spreading political ideas

Satire = use of humor for criticism

Irony = expression of meaning using opposite

Keyword: CONDITION

**Complete sentences**

Shostakovich was a | renowned composer and pianist.

He was born in | Saint Petersburg in 1906.

His music often addressed | political and personal themes.

One of his works, | Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk, was controversial.

He composed several | „war symphonies“ during World War II.

Shostakovich also wrote | chamber music and concertos.

His music is now | performed and studied worldwide.

Keyword: CURTAIN

**Questions**

Where was Shostakovich born?

in Saint Petersburg

What is Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk?

an opera composed by Shostakovich

How many symphonies did Shostakovich compose?

15

What did Shostakovich compose during World War II?

war symphonies

What did Shostakovich focus on in his later years?

chamber music and smaller forms

When did Shostakovich die?

in 1975

Keyword: CARPET

**Right or wrong?**

right

1. Shostakovich was born in 1906.

4. He composed 15 symphonies.

5. His music was criticized by Stalin.

wrong

6. His music was praised by Stalin.

2. Shostakovich was born in Moscow.

3. He composed 20 symphonies.

Keyword: FRIEND

**Solution sheet 2**

**Dmitri Shostakovich**

**Questions and answers**

What was Shostakovich’s early education?

Shostakovich studied at the conservatory in his hometown, Saint Petersburg.

What is one of Shostakovich’s most controversial works?

One of Shostakovich’s most controversial works is the opera Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk.

What are Shostakovich’s „war symphonies“?

Shostakovich’s „war symphonies“ are compositions he made during World War II, including the famous 7th Symphony, „Leningrad.“

What other types of music did Shostakovich compose besides symphonies?

Besides symphonies, Shostakovich also composed chamber music and concertos.

What was Shostakovich’s relationship with the Soviet government?

Shostakovich had a complicated relationship with the Soviet government, often seen as a propagandist for the regime, but his works often revealed a deeper, critical level.

What did Shostakovich focus on in his later years?

In his later years, Shostakovich focused on chamber music and smaller forms.

What is Shostakovich’s significance in modern times?

Dmitri Shostakovich is one of the most important figures in 20th century music, and his music is now performed and studied worldwide.