

# Meridian Music of the Week!

## Issue No. 5

Each week ALL our children will be listening to a piece of classical music as part of our music lessons. We'll be talking about it in class and discussing what we like, what we don't like and what it makes us think or feel.

Parents/carers/family - why not join in and listen for yourself at home! All music is available **free** on YouTube as well as paid services such as iTunes and Spotify.



**This week's music...**

*'Troika' from the film 'Lieutenant Kije' by Sergei Prokofiev*

YouTube – my favourite version...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7GUzJ7fQBtg>

As someone once said (or sang) ... **It's Chrriistmas !!!**

Well, really it's only the first week of December, but Meridian Music of the Week wants to get in the mood! This is a piece of music that you *might* think you've heard before – and you may be right. But it's **NOT** actually a Christmas tune as such.

It was written in 1933 by a Russian composer called Sergei Prokofiev for a film called "*Lieutenant Kije*". Prokofiev was a classical composer of orchestral music, but he was persuaded to write for a film because his music was very popular at the time. It was a kind of strange comedy film about the old King of Russia (The Tsar) who fell for a trick. His army invented a pretend Army Officer (Lieutenant Kije) to take the blame for some of their mistakes so that *they* wouldn't get in trouble. But, by the end of the story, the pretend Lieutenant somehow becomes the head of the whole Russian army – even though he doesn't actually exist!

Anyway – this short piece of music (only 2 minutes, 36 seconds) is called 'Troika' – which is the Russian word for a three-horse sleigh – used a lot in old Russia to travel more easily across the freezing snow. The three horses would run really quickly and this is represented by the fast **tempo** of the music. And listen to the sleigh bells ringing!

This music has been used and copied by many other composers and song writers. If you think you've heard it before – it MIGHT be because it was used in a famous Christmas record from 1975 by Greg Lake - "*I Believe in Father Christmas*" - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JkweTyrRTKw>

I also like THIS version – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U6-PAKOt7sM>

**Which to YOU prefer?**

**Merry Christmas December!**



**Mr. Mole**

**Music Teacher**