



Borodin: *Polovtsian Dance*, from *Prince Igor*

Dear Parents of TK, Kinder and Grade 1 Stars,

Reacting to music is a wonderful way for your child to engage in connecting both kinesthetically and mentally through physical action and listening.

Alexander Borodin was a Russian doctor, organic chemist and professor at the medical academy in St. Petersburg. Somehow, he also found time to compose music. His music contains wonderful melodies that remind the listener of old Russia. His most famous melody was later used for a famous song called *Stranger in Paradise*.

The YouTube link below connects you to a recording of Alexander Borodin's (1833-1887) beloved Polovtsian Dance from the opera *Prince Igor*. Arrange to play the piece so that your child can watch the orchestra and provide a space for him/her to move to and "conduct" the music. It would be lovely if you would care to share a short video clip of your child "conducting" or speaking about what he/she heard or felt about the music with me and, hopefully, the class as a whole when we come together again. Please send any clips to [jtrent@smtschool.net](mailto:jtrent@smtschool.net).

When the piece is over, please discuss with your child what he or she has heard. He or she can speak to the *moods* of the various sections of the piece, referring to the *Musical Moods* assignment from last week, or he/she might use descriptors, e.g. *fast, loud, exciting, a roller-coaster, happy, the ocean on a stormy day, yellow and blue, a clock striking the hour, my birthday party, a big machine, calm, strong* etc. Any answer can help your child to connect concepts, ideas and experiences.

Here is the link to the Polvtsian Dance on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/wiexn6O9To4>

Attached is a link to a video of Zubin Mehta's grandson watching his grandfather perform on TV and "conducting" along to the music. Enjoy!

Very best, Dr. Trent

