

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT COMPETITION 2023

DEADLINE: 5TH JUNE 2023

PRIZES FOR KS3, KS4 AND KS5

SHOULD MUSIC

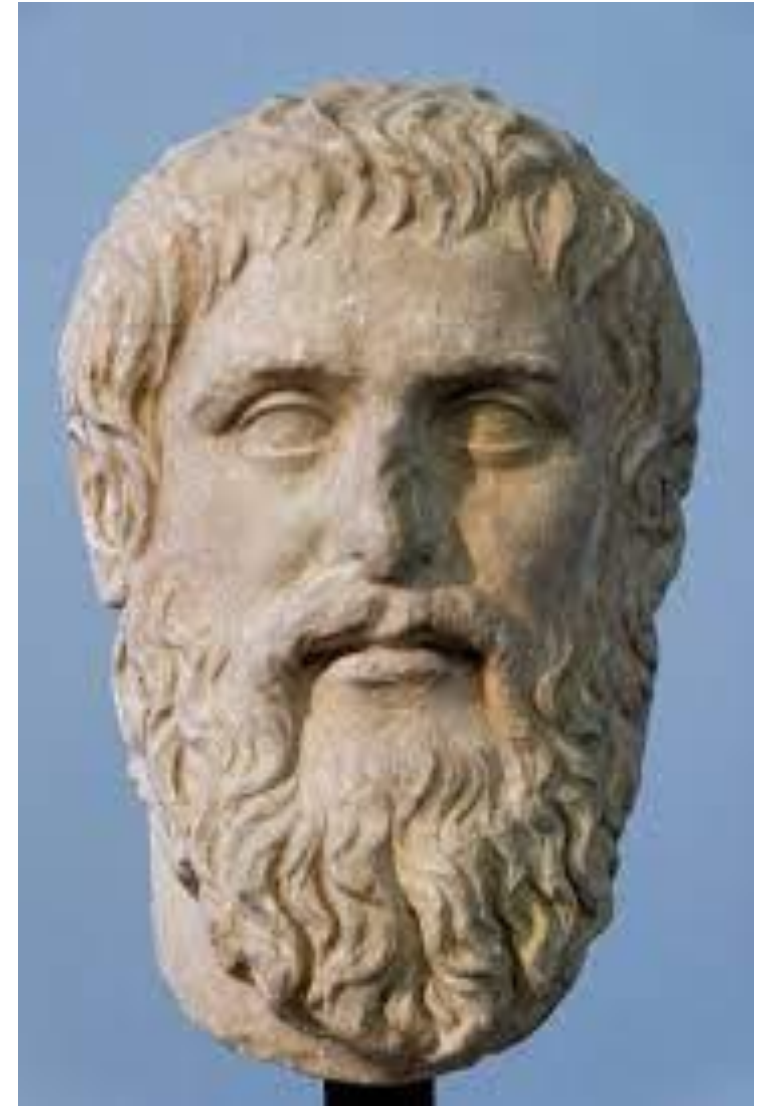
EVER

BE CENSORED?



Plato is considered to be one of the founding thinkers of Western civilisation. He lived in Ancient Greece in the 4th Century BC. In his book *The Republic* he outlined his theory that certain modes (scales) could have a negative effect on society and should therefore be banned!

For as long as there has been music, there have been people worried about its ability to influence behaviour. The ancient Greeks were convinced, anecdotally, that a certain king had been stirred to fighting by the sound of a flute playing a tune in the Phrygian mode. Plato was certain that the mixolydian mode would make young men "effeminate."



The composer Shostakovich encountered harsh challenges throughout his career, but his greatest test was during the time of Stalin. The personalized terror campaign that Stalin's government waged against Shostakovich is showed how much the Soviet state desired control over its citizens' cultural and aesthetic lives. During Stalin's rule, Shostakovich suffered two major denunciations, in 1936 and 1948, and numerous smaller attacks were interspersed throughout his career. His music was frequently deemed "formalist," "counterrevolutionary," "anti-Soviet," or "pro-Western"; these epithets came in varying degrees of intensity, and their issuers more than once threatened Shostakovich's life.



Were Stalin and the Soviet authorities right to try and censor Shostakovich's work?



On June 3, 1956, Santa Cruz city authorities announced a total ban on rock and roll at public gatherings, calling the music “Detrimental to both the health and morals of our youth and community.”

Why was Rock ‘n’ Roll music considered such a threat to society by American authorities in the 1950s?



The composer Richard Wagner was born in Germany in 1813, and from an early age was ambitious—writing his first drama at the age of 11 and his first musical compositions at the age of 16. Wagner is remembered for his complex operas, but perhaps even more so, his anti-Semitic (anti-Jewish) writings.

Posthumously, these writings made him a favourite of Adolf Hitler's and there is often discussion over Wagner's writings and their influence on the National Socialist movement and the ideas of Hitler himself. Wagner's operas themselves were pieces of intricate beauty that often circled around thematic elements having to do with German nationalism and the virtues of the German people.



**Because of his notoriously antisemitic views Wagner's music is banned in Israel. Should it be?
Should it be banned elsewhere too?**



Even last year, music by certain composers have been censored and removed from concert programmes. This has primarily been due to the invasion of Ukraine by Russian forces. The works of many famous Russian composers have been silenced.

Russian ballets cancelled across UK amid Ukraine crisis

The Russian State Ballet of Siberia is latest company to have UK performances pulled

● Russia-Ukraine war latest news: follow live updates



▶ The Russian State Ballet of Siberia performed in Northampton on Friday. Photograph: PR handout

A Northampton theatre has become the latest venue to cancel a performance by a Russian ballet company amid the crisis in Ukraine.

The Russian State Ballet of Siberia, which has been performing in the UK since 2007, was due to complete a three-night run at the Royal & Derngate in Northampton, performing Cinderella, The Snow Maiden and The Nutcracker.

Ben Quinn

@BenQuinn75

Sat 12 Mar 2022 07:00 GMT



▶ Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893). His 1812 Overture celebrates Russia's defence against Napoleon's invasion. Photograph: World History Archive/Alamy

A director of the Cardiff Philharmonic Orchestra says it has been taken aback by the backlash against its decision [to remove the Russian composer Tchaikovsky](#) from its forthcoming programme because of the conflict in Ukraine.

Members of the orchestra were also said to have been among those who had voiced reservations about playing Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture - which celebrates Russia's defence against the invasion of Napoleon and is notable for featuring a volley of cannon fire - when the matter was discussed with them.

The 1812 Overture was due to be included in the orchestra's Tchaikovsky concert at St David's Hall on 18 March, but the entire programme has been abandoned because of events in [Ukraine](#).

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/mar/12/cardiff-orchestra-defends-cut-tchaikovsky-concert-russia>



Should music performed/composed by people who have committed crimes be banned?



Gary Glitter – imprisoned for child abuse

Michael Jackson – accused of multiple counts of child abuse



Phil Spector – Murdered his wife



Jerry Lee Lewis – Married his 13-year-old cousin



Competition Time!

Choose one task from the choice of three below:

1. Write a letter to the Cardiff Philharmonic Orchestra agreeing or disagreeing with their decision to ban the music of Tchaikovsky from their concert.
2. Create a well structured **classical** concert programme which features composers whose music has been censored. Your programme must include the following:
 - A statement on why a concert like this is needed.
 - A short biography of each composer
 - A musical analysis of each piece
3. Create your own TED Talk on the theme of Musical Censorship – you can create your own title. You can either write the script or record yourself delivering the TED talk.



Prizes for KS3, 4 and 5.

Submit your work to the following email address by the closing date

Email: rbrazendale@gordons.school

When you email, please use the subject heading –

‘Music Censorship Competition’

Closing date: Monday 5th June 2023

