

Toyota Symphonies for Youth

The Rite of Spring



WALT DISNEY
CONCERT HALL

LA Phil
GUSTAVO DUDAMEL
MUSIC & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

About the Composer



IGOR STRAVINSKY

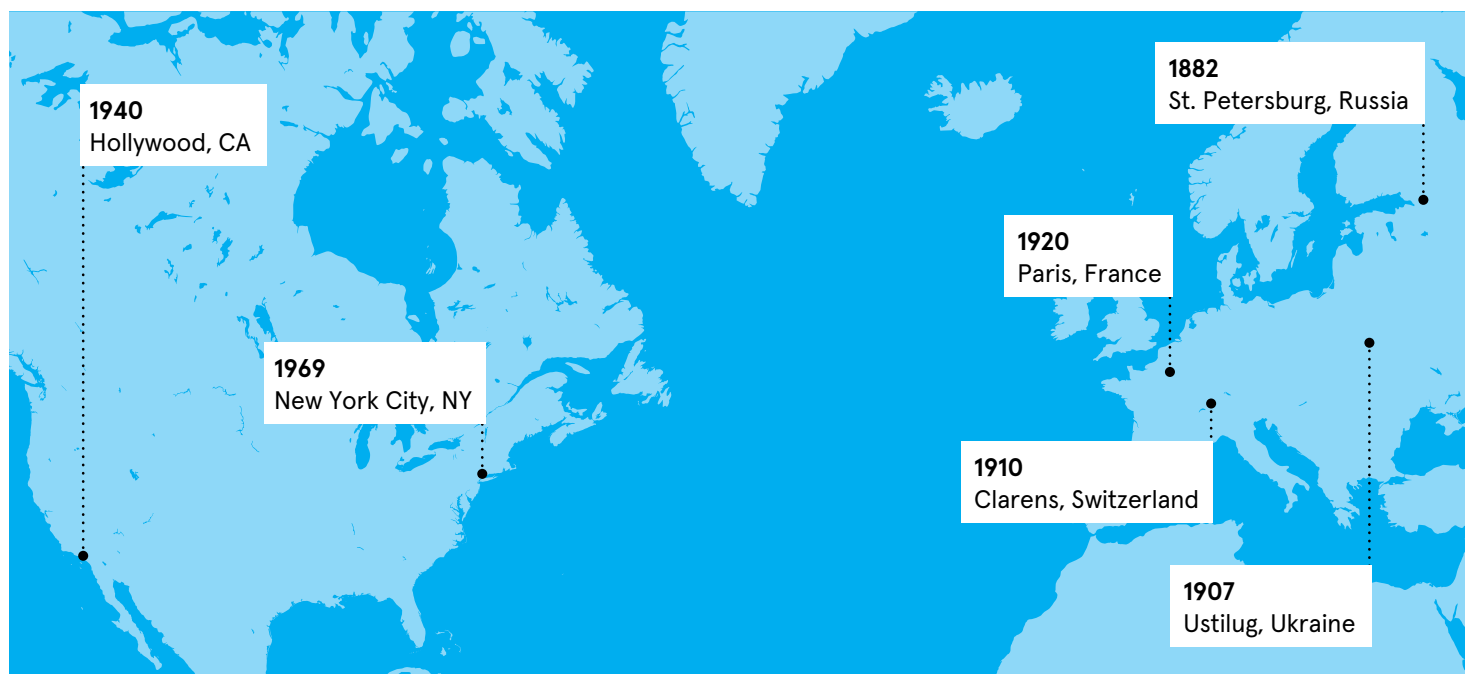
Born 1882, Saint Petersburg, Russia

Died 1971, New York City

"I haven't understood a bar of music in my life, but I have felt it."

Igor Stravinsky's biography reads like the history of Western music from the end of the 19th century to the middle of the 20th. He began his career in the late Romantic/Nationalist style of his teacher, Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov (composer of *Scheherazade* and other famous works), revolutionized music with *The Rite of Spring*, pioneered a restrained, objective style based on classical models, and took up 12-tone composition towards the end of his life. Throughout, Stravinsky was at the forefront of changes in musical styles, first in Russia, then in Paris, and finally in Los Angeles, where he settled in 1940, conducting the Los Angeles Philharmonic numerous times.

STRAVINSKY TIMELINE MAP



About *The Rite of Spring*: Key Moments



DANCES OF SPRING

Stravinsky described *The Rite of Spring* as “a musical-choreographic work” — a series of episodes that tell a story through music and movement. In this performance, choreographer and director Kitty McNamee incorporates a variety of dance styles from across the globe, including contemporary dance and hip-hop. Each style represents rich cultural traditions that have united communities and provide unique opportunities for self-expression. Dancer Bhavana Reddy contributes elements from Kuchipudi, a classical Indian dance form that has been crafted and refined over many generations. Each hand gesture and movement is full of meaning and symbolism.

What are some of the movements you see in the performance? What do you think the dancer is trying to communicate? What movements could you create to tell the story of your community?



Our *Rite of Spring* story begins in the hills of an ancient village.

BEGINNING

A pair of young lovers is united, and one of them breaks into a lively dance — becoming one with the earth.



The strings and horns play a series of vigorous phrases and then come to an abrupt stop at the end of the dance.



At night, a group of young people enter a mysterious grove and begin dancing. One of them is chosen as a special leader for the annual village celebration.



The horns, clarinets, cello, and other strings play a slow melody.

Stravinsky's music was inspired by people in ancient Russian villages who celebrated times of planting and harvest, as well as the mysteries of gods and fate. The villagers celebrated with what they had: their voices, their hands and feet, and totems or symbols they built themselves. The product was a wild, chaotic mix of sound and noise, where people gathered through ritual music and dance to honor their relationship to each other, their ancestors, and to the earth.



A wise woman calls to the villagers to join her in celebrating this new season. She is connected to the earth. She knows the history of these people and can predict the future.



The bassoon plays the high notes of the opening melody and is then joined by the horns and clarinets.

In the village, people play games, gather around a campfire to tell stories of old rival tribes, and build totems (sacred symbols) to honor their elders.



Pounding rhythms played by the brass and percussion and high trills from the flutes.



Led by a Sage (a wise elder) and the Chosen One, the villagers gather again in ritual music and dance to honor their relationship to each other, their ancestors, and to the earth.



Short phrases interspersed with drum rolls as the Sage emerges, followed by plucked strings and a repeated melodic call by the woodwinds.



The full orchestra plays a wild fortissimo swirl to a strong, abrupt ending.




The village is full of the beauty, mystery, and excitement of spring!

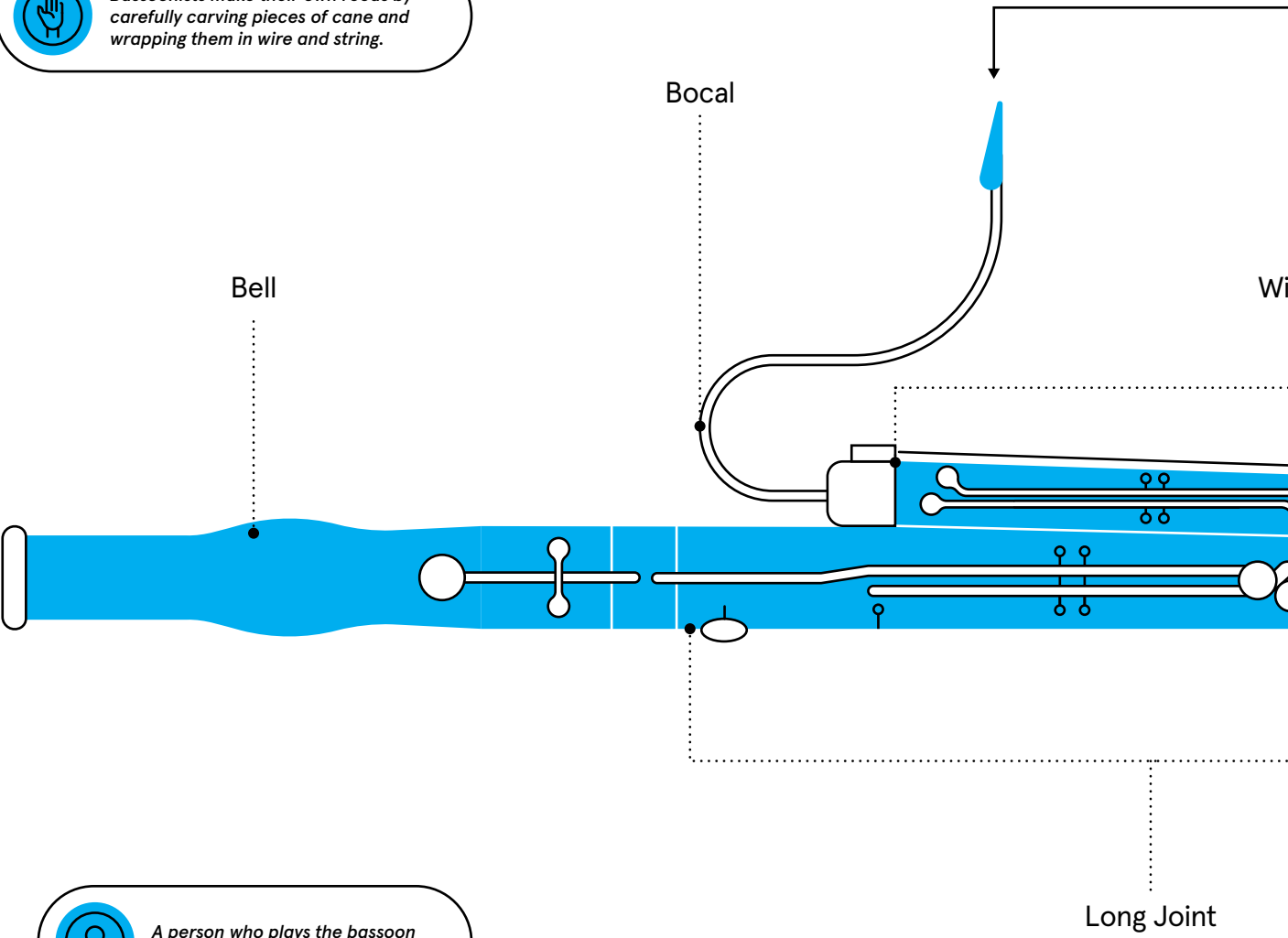



Staccato repeated chords in the strings and descending phrases by the flutes, clarinets, and muted trumpets.

END

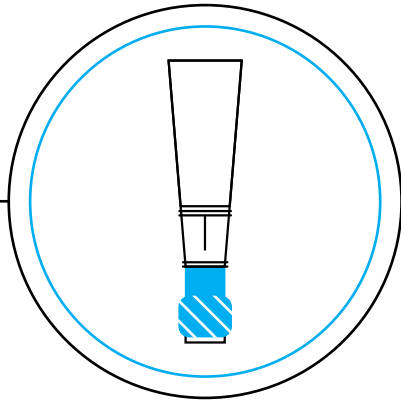
Anatomy of a Bassoon

 Bassoonists make their own reeds by carefully carving pieces of cane and wrapping them in wire and string.




 A person who plays the bassoon is called a bassoonist.

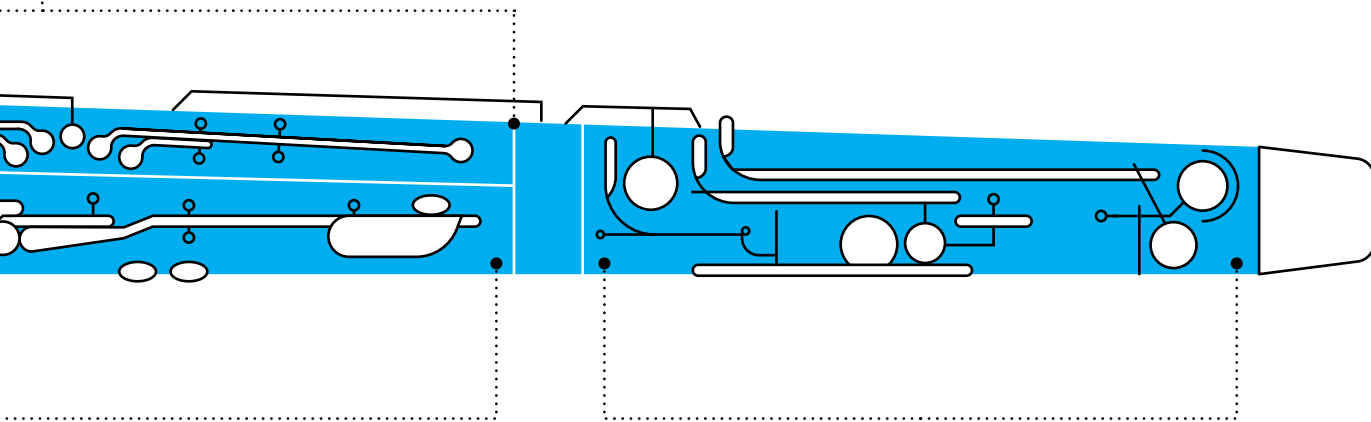
Listen carefully to the beginning of *The Rite of Spring* – the first note is a very high, quiet note on the bassoon, leading into an iconic solo. The bassoon is a double-reed instrument and a member of the woodwind family, along with clarinet, oboe, and flute.




Double Reed

 Sound is created by blowing through a double reed that vibrates in your mouth.

ing Joint

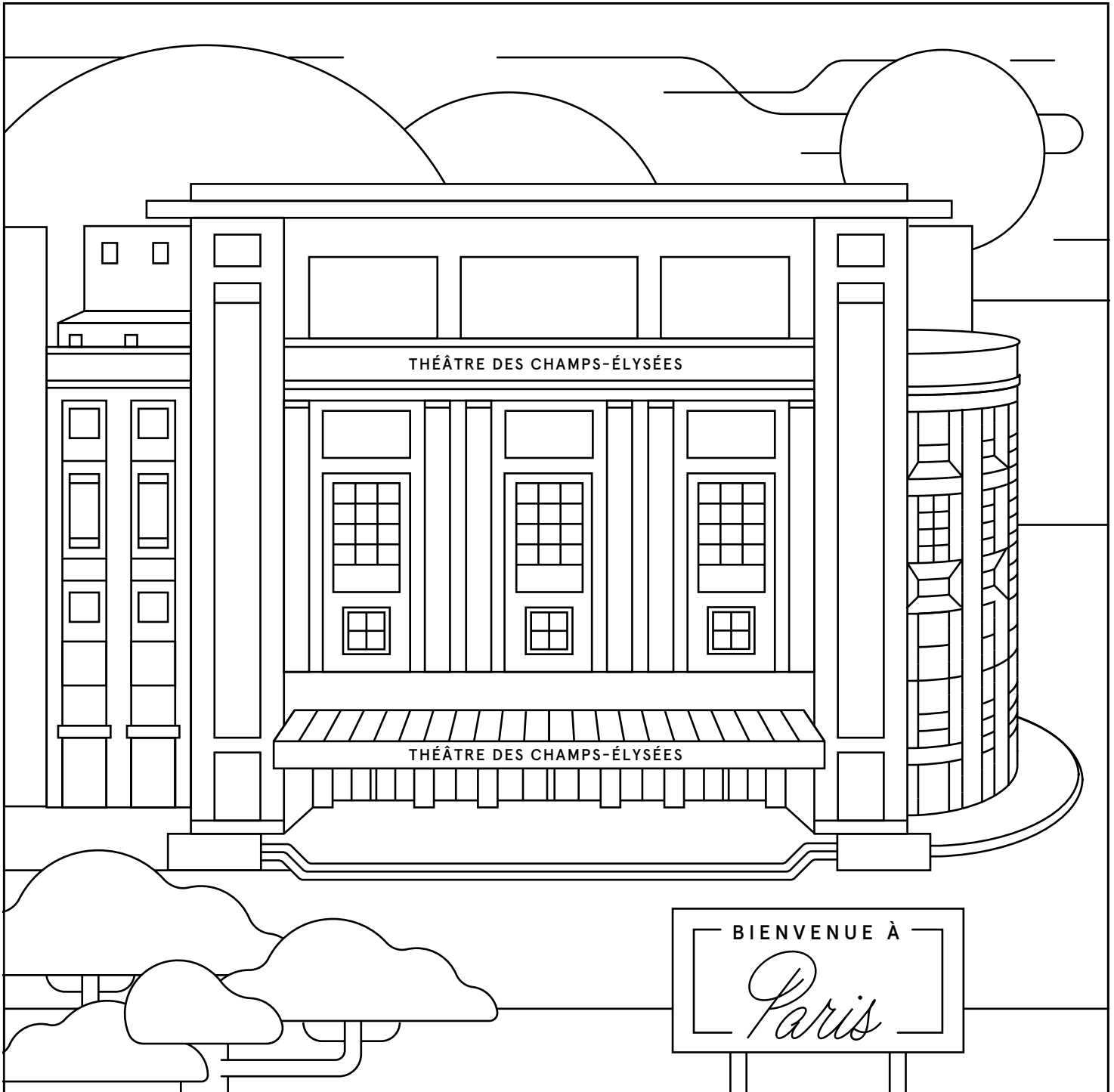


Boot Joint

 The bassoon is 4'5" long – taller than most kids when it stands upright!

Théâtre des Champs-Élysées

The Théâtre des Champs-Élysées is a concert hall in Paris. It got its name from the nearby Avenue des Champs-Élysées, one of the most well-known streets in the world. The building was finished in 1913, and the premiere of the ballet *The Rite of Spring* was one of the first performances in the venue.



Cipher Activity

The Rite of Spring depicts early Russian folk celebrations and rituals of spring. The choreography and music pushed the boundaries of ballet at that time. The 1913 premiere at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées in Paris is remembered as one of the most dramatic moments in classical music history.

Use the code below to find out what happened at the premiere!

20 8 5 1 21 4 9 5 14 3 5 2 21 18 19 20 15 21 20 9 14 1

19 20 15 18 13 15 6 2 15 15 9 14 7 , 3 8 5 5 18 9 14 7 , 1 14 4

25 5 12 12 9 14 7 . 9 20 23 1 19 16 18 1 3 20 9 3 1 12 12 25

1 18 9 15 20 !

KEY

<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>J</u>	<u>K</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>M</u>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<u>N</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>Q</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>U</u>	<u>V</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>Z</u>
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

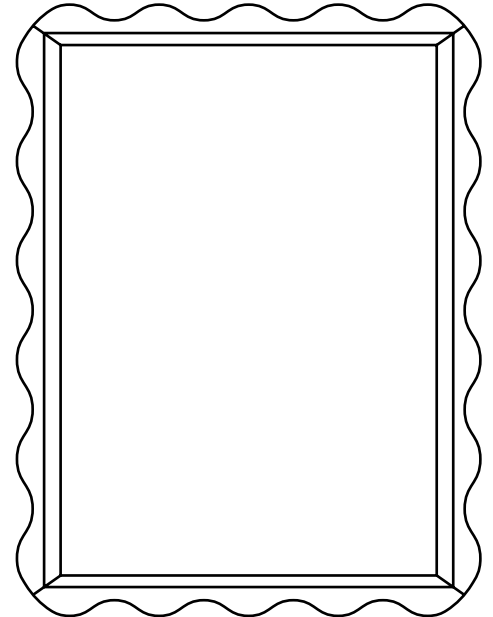
Draw Like Picasso

In 1920, Stravinsky collaborated with the artist Pablo Picasso on the ballet *Pulcinella*. Picasso designed the costumes and sets, and Stravinsky wrote the music. During the time they worked together, they developed a close friendship, and Picasso drew several portraits of Stravinsky.

STRAVINSKY BY PICASSO

As a young artist, before he developed his own distinct style, Picasso studied and imitated the work of many other artists. He would study an existing piece of art and try to imitate it before creating his own version. Now, it's your turn to study Picasso's work.

Use the empty frame to imitate Picasso's sketch of Stravinsky.



STRAVINSKY BY YOU

Use this space to create a portrait of Stravinsky, using your own unique artistic style. Think of how the music you heard at the concert influences your interpretation.

