



## KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER: KEY COMPOSER 6

# IGOR STRAVINSKY

1882-1971



Commission	A piece of work that has been specifically ordered and you receive payment for
Ballet	A form of dancing performed to music
Dissonant	When music lacks harmony and the notes seem to clash
Dynamics	How loud or soft the music is
Woodwind	The instrument section of the orchestra that used to be made predominately from wood and make a sound by being blown. Instruments include oboes, clarinets, flutes and bassoons
Orchestration	The instrumental arrangement of music performed by an orchestra
Choreography	Sequence of movements in dance

- Stravinsky was a composer, pianist and conductor
- Stravinsky was expected to study law but enjoyed his music lessons more. He had a very famous Russian teacher called Rimsky-Korsakov
- Stravinsky developed a love for the ballet after watching Tchaikovsky's *The Sleeping Beauty* when he was 8 years old
- Stravinsky was commissioned to write the music for several ballets for the very famous ballet company Ballets Russes (see below) This turned him into an overnight success
- Stravinsky was well-travelled. He lived in France, Switzerland, America and Canada. He has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and even appeared on an American Postage stamp

### Stravinsky's most **SIGNIFICANT WORK** is **THE RITE OF SPRING**

This was first performed in 1913 at the Theatre des Champs-Elysees in Paris. The ballet is about Pagan Russian rituals celebrating the beginning of Spring. A young girl is chosen as a sacrificial victim and dances herself to death. Not only did the choreography and costume push the boundaries of what was acceptable in society at the time, the rhythm shocked the audience with its energy. The music was dissonant, the orchestration strange, the woodwind section in the beginning seemed to twitter and the dynamics were aggressive. The audience were stunned when it was first performed. There are reports of fist fights and the need for a police presence. It caused such a riot, that the dancers on stage couldn't hear the orchestra.



### BALLETS RUSSES

- This a very influential ballet company based in France between 1909 and 1929 directed by Diaghilev
- The dancers toured all over Europe and America
- Stravinsky was also commissioned to write *The Firebird*, another notable ballet for the company
- Choreographers, set and costume designers included really famous artists like Kandinsky, Matisse, Coco Chanel, Pablo Picasso and Salvador Dali