

Hey Kids, Meet **Dmitri Kabalevsky**

Russian Modern Era Composer (1904-1987)

Dmitri Kabalevsky was born in Saint Petersburg, Russia on December 30, 1904. As a young boy, Dmitri was encouraged by his father, a mathematician, to study mathematics. His interests, however, drew him to the arts. Eventually he became an accomplished pianist with interests in poetry and painting. He even spent three years as a theater pianist playing for silent films.

Kabalevsky's most important contribution to music is perhaps his effort to connect children to music. His *Twenty-Four Little Pieces* for piano solo is an example of the music he composed with the intention of bridging the gap between children's technical skills and musical aesthetics. He also led a music education pilot program in twenty-five Soviet schools.

Kabalevsky died on February 18, 1987. In spite of Russia's control over its composers and artists, Kabalevsky managed to build a successful career for himself.

