



Bela Bartok 1881 -1945

Baby Bartok was born in small town Hungary. When his Father died suddenly, Bartok was only 7 years old. His Mother and Sister moved to the Ukraine and then Slovakia . His family moved back to Budapest where little Bela studied the piano at the Royal Academy of Music in 1889 .

Young Bela began to compose music at school. He was influenced by Mr. Debussy's new techniques of Impressionism as well as and Richard Strauss and Johannes Brahms from Germany. Bela became such a great pianist, he toured Europe then came back to Hungary to teach at the Conservatory where he studied.

Mr. Bartok was married 2 times and had two boys, Bela and Peter Bartok. Peter moved to the United States with Mr. Bartok and his wife during World War II . Peter lived in Florida for many years, working as a sound engineer!

In 1908, Mr. Bartok traveled into the countryside to collect and research of old Magyar folk melodies, or Gypsy music. The growing interest in folk music came at the same time with an interest in traditional national culture. Bartok quickly added elements of such Magyar peasant music into his compositions. He quoted folk song melodies and wrote pieces derived entirely from authentic songs. Mr. Bartok wrote many Operas, Ballets, Symphonies, Piano Concertos and 6 String Quartets . His music sounds like country dances and gypsy-like songs that have strong dance rhythms with uneven metered rhythms in 5 and 7 beat counts.

Bartok is also known as one of the founders, or inventors, of Ethnomusicology. Composers , like Bartok, and many others look instead at music as a reflection of a country's culture .One of the jobs of the ethnomusicologist is to search out and find music from people of local and different ethnic background and learn and study the music that is unique to their culture.

