

PETER AND THE WOLF

A musical tale for children by Serge Prokofieff

Verse by Anthony Marks

after an original story by Serge Prokofieff



Here's a boy whose name is Peter
opening the garden gate.

Out he goes into the meadow -
he doesn't stop, he doesn't wait.

It's still early in the morning,
Lots to do and lots to see,
Peter's friend the bird is singing
in the branches of a tree.



Then a duck comes through the gate,
Looking forward to a swim.
She waddles over to the pond,
One small hop and - splash! - she's in!



The bird flies down and shrugs his shoulders -
"You're a bird, but you don't fly!"

The duck sits calmly in the water -
"You can't swim! I wonder why?"

Soon they're squabbling. There's the bird,
hopping up and down the shore.
The duck is paddling in the water
(that's what her webbed feet are for).

Such an awful fuss! Have you
ever heard a noise like that? But
Peter's spotted something crawling
slowly through the grass - a cat!





The cat thinks there's a chance to grab the quarrelling bird, and so she crawls towards him on her velvet paws. But Peter sees - "Look out!" he calls.

All at once the bird flies off,
back to safety in the tree,
and from the middle of the pond
the duck starts quacking angrily.

The cat slinks round and round. She's thinking:
"Is it really worth the climb?
The bird will only fly away.
It's a total waste of time."

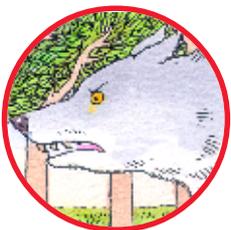
Now who's this? It's Peter's Grandpa.
He's not looking very pleased. "You
shouldn't go into the meadow!"
And he points towards the trees.



"You mustn't play out here, you know.
It's too dangerous!" he shouts.
"Wolves live in the forest. You'd be
really scared if one came out!"

But Peter's not afraid of wolves.
He ignores his Grandpa's words.
He likes playing in the meadow
with his friends, cat, duck and bird.

So Grandpa takes him by the hand,
leads him home and locks the gate.
(But Peter wants some more excitement -
He doesn't have too long to wait.)



As soon as they have left the meadow -
Grandpa rattling his keys -
There's a rustle from the forest.
A big grey wolf comes through the trees.

Cat climbs quickly up the branches,
Duck jumps quacking to the shore.
The wolf runs up, the duck runs off,
but can't escape his speeding paws.
He catches her and with a GULP!
He swallows her between his jaws.



So this is how things stand. The cat
sits on one branch and - not too near -
the bird sits on another, while
the wolf licks his lips from ear to ear.

Peter watches from inside,
He doesn't feel the slightest fear.
And suddenly he runs back home
Because he's had a good idea.



He brings a rope and climbs the wall.
(The wolf's still prowling hungrily.)
He grabs hold of a branch and swings
himself up high into the tree.

And then he whispers to his friend
the bird: "Fly down and circle low
around his head! Go on! Be quick!
Make sure he doesn't catch you, though!"

And so the brave bird flutters down,
and flaps around the animal's head,
but every time he snaps his jaws,
the wolf just tastes thin air instead.

The bird is clever, and the wolf
is getting more and more confused.
And meanwhile Peter, in the tree,
has made himself a fine lasso!



He lets it down. It slips around
the animal's tail - he pulls it tight.
The wolf, realising he is caught,
jumps about and tries to fight.



But Peter ties the other end
of his lasso onto the tree.
No matter how the wolf protests,
he's trapped. He simply can't get free.

Here's some huntsmen, guns held high,
Through the forest edge they burst.
They've been following the wolf -
But someone else has caught him first!



Peter's still up in the tree.
"Hey! Don't shoot! You don't need to!
We've already caught the wolf.
Now help us take him to the zoo!"

Imagine the procession! Look -
Peter first, the huntsmen next,
leading the wolf, and then the cat,
and Grandpa (looking very vexed).

The bird is flying high above,
Chirping merrily to the rest,
"See what we did! Aren't we clever!
We caught a wolf! We're the best!"

And if you listen carefully,
You will hear the little duck.
The wolf has swallowed her alive -
Isn't that a piece of luck?

