



Hallo?

(hah-LOH)

Dmitri?

Guten Tag!

(GOO-ten-tahk)

Johann Phones Dmitri



Johann?

Privyet!

(pree-yyet)

Zdravstvujtye!

(zdrah-stvooy-tee)

In the German language the black notes on the piano have an actual letter name. In fact, the note we would call B flat in North America is simply "B" in German, while our B natural is referred to as "H". In this way a composer like Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) can spell his surname musically. This is something he occasionally did in his compositions as a kind of musical signature (for example, see the final Contrapunctus in his work, *The Art of Fugue*).

The note we call E flat is known as "S" in German and the Russian composer, Dmitri Shostakovich (1906-1975), created his own musical signature by using the note names of his first name's initial followed by the first three letters of his surname as it would be spelt in the German language (D. Schostakovich). Shostakovich's Eighth String Quartet is probably his most famous composition in which he uses these four pitches.

While this piece looks very chromatic it is actually quite simple in the way that the left hand always repeats Bach's note names in almost the same rhythm throughout. It is as if Bach only has one thing to say on the phone. The Shostakovich inspired right hand, however, expands his signature tune in a way that eventually arrives on the same note names that began the piece but placed an octave higher.



A slow march (♩ = 72)

[D S C H]

John Burge

mp pesante

[B A C H]

5

Musical notation for measures 5-9. The piece is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody in the treble clef features a series of eighth notes with a slur, followed by a dotted quarter note, and then continues with eighth notes. The bass clef provides a simple accompaniment of quarter notes.

10

Musical notation for measures 10-14. The melody continues with eighth notes and a dotted quarter note. The bass clef accompaniment remains consistent with quarter notes.

15

Musical notation for measures 15-18. The melody includes a sharp sign (F#) in measure 15. A *cresc.* (crescendo) hairpin is placed over the treble staff, indicating a gradual increase in volume. The bass clef accompaniment continues with quarter notes.

19

Musical notation for measures 19-23. The melody features dotted quarter notes and eighth notes. Dynamic markings are present: *f* (forte) in measure 19, *mp* (mezzo-piano) in measure 21, and *dim.* (diminuendo) in measure 23. The bass clef accompaniment continues with quarter notes.

24

Musical notation for measures 24-28. The melody consists of quarter notes and half notes. A *pp* (pianissimo) dynamic marking is placed in measure 26. The bass clef accompaniment continues with quarter notes.