

Primitivism

Through his use of energetic rhythms and complex harmonies, **Igor Stravinsky** (1882–1971) became identified with a musical style called **Primitivism**. He revolutionized music with his early works for the Ballets Russes (The Russian Ballets). The music of *Petrushka* uses the technique called **parallel harmonies** (chords locked into an unchanging shape that move up or down).



Self-Portrait (1907)
by Pablo Picasso
(1881–1973)

Primitivism in art idealized folk and non-Western cultures. The brilliant colors and rough, flat decorations of Alexander Benois' *Petrushka* set design and Picasso's self-portrait reflect this style.

CD Track 19: "Russian Dance"
from *Petrushka* (1911)
by Igor Stravinsky

Taking place in St. Petersburg, Russia, the exotic and brightly colored stage set reflects elements of primitivism.

Petrushka (1911) by
Alexander Benois (1870–1960)

Igor Stravinsky (1915)
by Jacques-Émile Blanche
(1861–1942)

SAMPLE