1. The Rite of Spring – One of Stravinsky's best pieces and one of the most influential works of the 20th century. It was so strange, that at the time, it caused a riot. This piece should be listened to at Diaghilev’s Ballets Russes in 1913. The piece sounds very intense and has sharp dynamic spikes while capturing the feeling of anxiety. Personally, I do not like this piece because it is very anxiety-inducing and I prefer more gentle music.
2. The Firebird – The Firebird was performed at Diaghilev's ballets Russes in 1910. This ballet sparked Stravinsky’s popularity and exposed his talent to an audience. The piece sounds very chaotic and sophisticated, as if a volcano is erupting and there is a Pheonix rescuing victims of the tragic event. Leitmotifs are used to represent the different characters in the plot of the ballet. When I listened to it, I enjoyed it because of the intense introduction and then nearing the end, there is resolve. Throughout the ballet, there are moments when it is very intense and then there are moments when you feel like you are on a cloud.
3. Petrushka – The flute solo really sells me. Most of the song is noticeably light and the other half feels like you are chasing. Personally, I love this song and it is beautiful. The composition of Petrushka has an exceedingly high tempo and it is fast. The sharp, high pitch notes and jingles are satisfying.
4. Apollo – The combination of amazing choreography and exquisite ballet makes this song wonderful. In comparison to other songs by Stravinsky, Apollo is pure and sweet. There is no conflict within the song and there is only peace.
5. The Soldier’s Tale – This song is special because it has a libretto and sounds like you are a soldier in the French war. The main thing that sets apart this song from the rest is the amount of drumming. It sounds like you are being investigated and the pressure is on.