**D. Shostakovich, 1969**

Recently I’ve had heart trouble

I also suffer from bad arthritis

I’ve just finished my 14th Symphony

Wretched death its emphasis

I may have neurodegenerative disease

No need telling me now to break a leg

I can no longer play the piano

As dregs are plural, I feel like a dreg

Dead Prokofiev was known to have sworn

I’m *bereft of melodic invention*

Many others have sworn

I’m just so Soviet and not so Russian

All I can say is this:

My symphonies 4, 5, 10 and 13 will live

Firstly, I’m a composer of symphonies

Enigmatic, novel, provocative