**Spartacus**

I`ll never forget my first visit to the Mariinsky Theatre. It was ages ago but it stand out in my memory quite vividly. As soon as we came to St. Petersburg, we bought two tickets beforehand for a matinee performance of the ballet Spartacus by Khachaturian. It was four-acted ballet in nine scenes in the original ballet version by Leonid Jacobson We had arrived at the theatre long before the performance began. A sign at the entrance of the theatre said: “House Full”. We left our coats in the cloak-room and bought a programme from the usher to see what the cast was and to real the libretto. We were glad to see that Igor Zelenskiy. People's Artist of Russia and a prominent ballet dancer, was performing the main part.

When we came into the hall the orchestra were turning their instrument We found our seats. They were in the stalls, in the 9th row and were fabulous. Then we went to explore the theatre. The boxes, the pit, the dress circle, and the balconies were full of people. At twelve sharp the lights went down. The conductor appeared and after a short overture the curtain rose upon the stage. The dancing and the sets of the ballet were superb. The costumes were marvelous; no tutus or lace but for stylized Roman tunics and armour. I enjoyed all those pirouettes and pas de deux’s. I had never seen anything more amazing. When the curtain fell the house burst into applause. During the first interval we went to the foyer and looked at the portraits of the singers and the dancers of the the Mariinsky Theatre on the walls.

 At the end of the performance the dancers got many curtains calls and were presented with flowers. The performance was a great success with the public. The first visit to the Mariinsky Theatre is one of my brightest memories.