**The Bolshoi theatre**

There are lots of popular theatres in Moscow, for example ‘Taganka”, “Lenkom”, “Sovremennik” the Moscow Art Theatre, the and Maly Theatre. Among them the Bolshoi holds a prominent place.

The Bolshoi Theatre is a beautiful building with columns in front of it. It is situated in the centre of Moscow in Theatre Square.

The Bolshoi Theatre, which is also called Large, Great or Grand Theatre. is a historic theatre in Moscow. It houses ballet and opera performances. The Bolshoi Ballet and the Bolshoi Opera are among the oldest and greatest ballet and opera companies of the world. It was founded in 1776. The present-day theatre occupies the building that was designed by architect Andrei Mikhailov in Theatre Square in 1824. The Maly Theatre was also designed by the above-mentioned architect.

At that time the Bolshoi Theatre's original name was the Imperial Bolshoi Theatre of Moscow, The Bolshoi is a repertoire theatre. It normally introduces two to four new ballet or opera productions per season and retires some others. Sets and costumes for most productions are made in the Bolshoi's own workshops. The performers engaged in repertoire productions, are usually from the Bolshoi's regular ballet and opera companies.

As a rule the Bolshoi is associated with ballet. Tchaikovsky's ballet Swan Lakewas premiered at the theatre in 1877. Other important pieces of the repertoire include Tchaikovsky's The Sleeping Beauty and The Nutcracker, Adam's Giselle, Prokofiev's Romeo and Juliet, and Khachaturian’s Spartacus.

The opera company specializes in classics of Russian opera such as Mussorgsky's Boris Godunov, Glinka's Life for the Tsar, and Rimsky- Korsakov's The Tsar`sBride. However, a lot of operas by western composers are also performed there, especially works by Italian composers such as Rossini, Verdi, and Puccini.

The Bolshoi Theatre is considered to be the jewel of the Russian ballet and opera school.