

ASSAMALLA, NEAR RAKVERE. ARVO IS AT HIS GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE AWAITING HIS MOTHER AND STEPFATHER.

1939



GRANDMA!



WHEN WILL
MUMMY BE
COMING?!
I CAN'T WAIT
ANY LONGER!

SHE'LL BE HERE SOON, ARVO DEAR!
YESTERDAY WAS SATURDAY AND NOW THAT
MUM IS NO LONGER UNEMPLOYED, SHE LIKES
TO REST A LITTLE ON THE WEEKENDS.



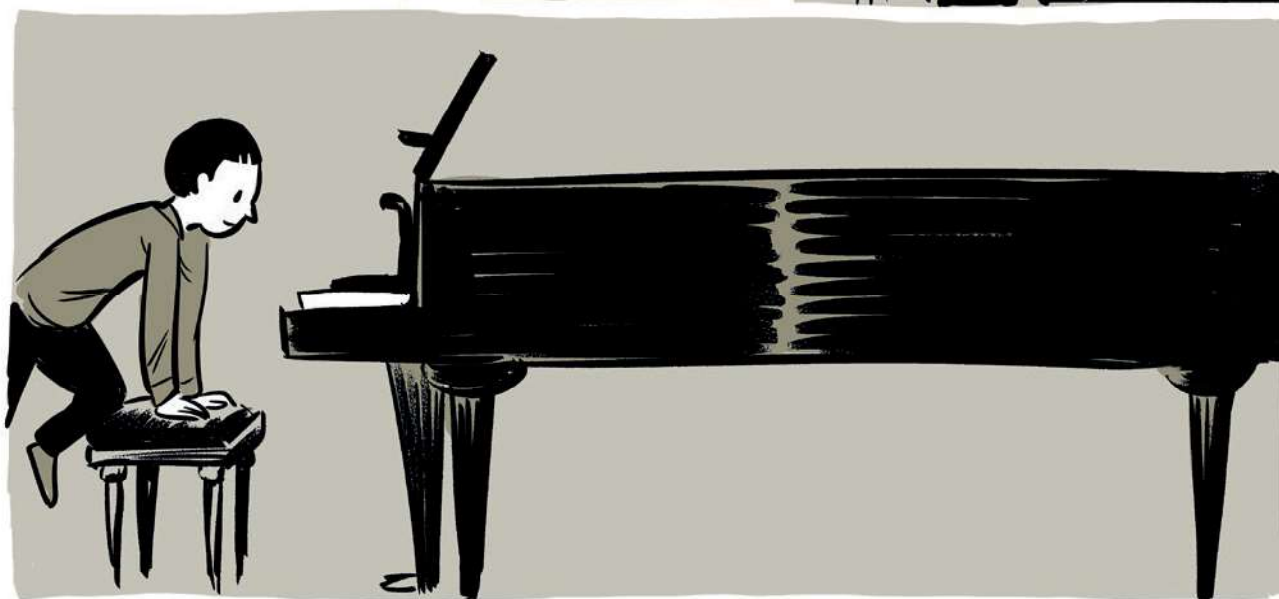
IT WAS VERY NICE OF YOU TO ASK
YOUR KINDERGARTEN TEACHER TO
GIVE MUMMY A JOB. SHE WAS
VERY MOVED BY THAT.

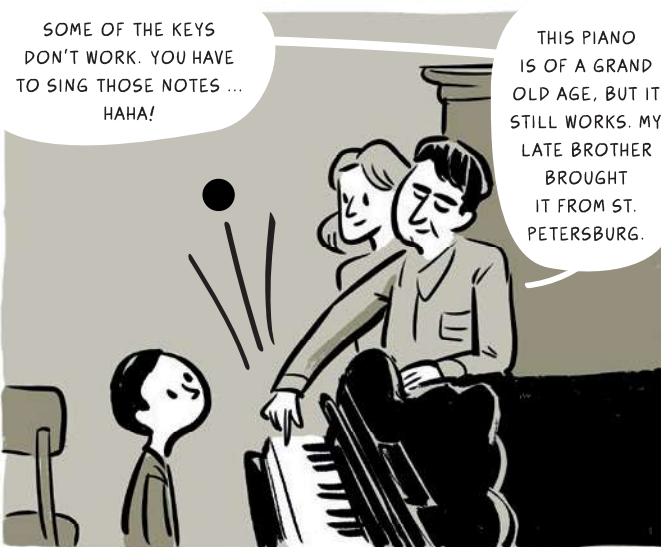
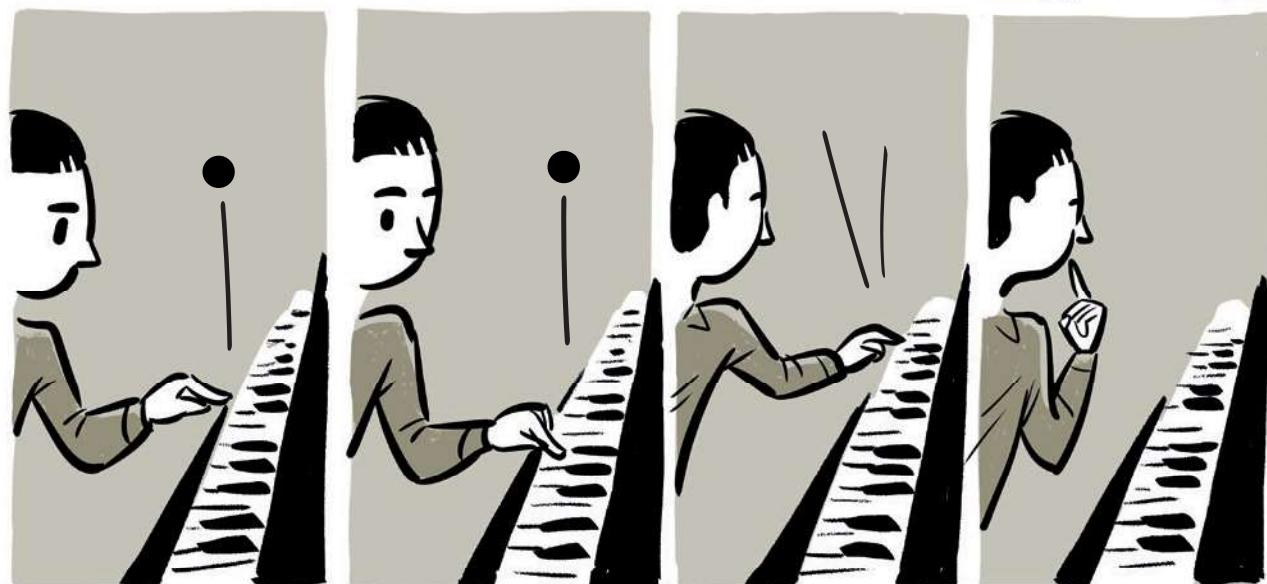
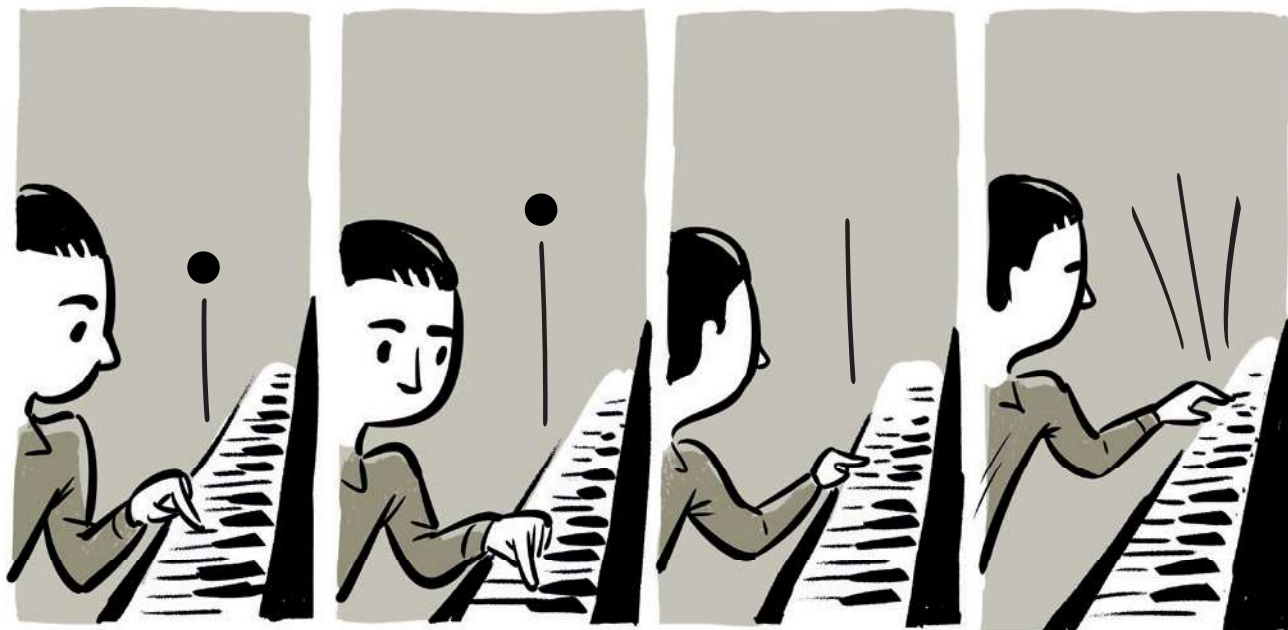


BUT TODAY IS SUNDAY, AND THAT MEANS
IT'S TIME TO READ A LITTLE MORE FROM
THE BIBLE. I'LL READ YOU A STORY
WHERE A MUM IS AWAITING
A CHILD, INSTEAD!



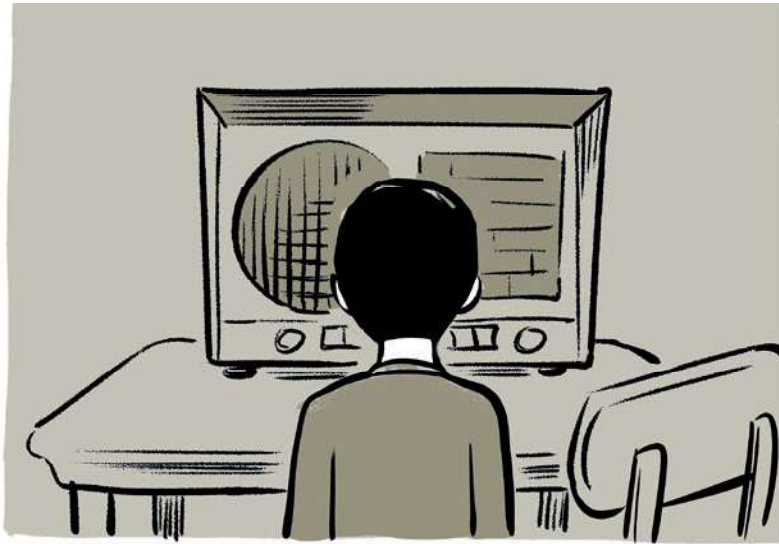






OPPORTUNITIES TO BE ALONE IN SUCH A
PACKED HOUSE ARE FEW AND FAR BETWEEN.



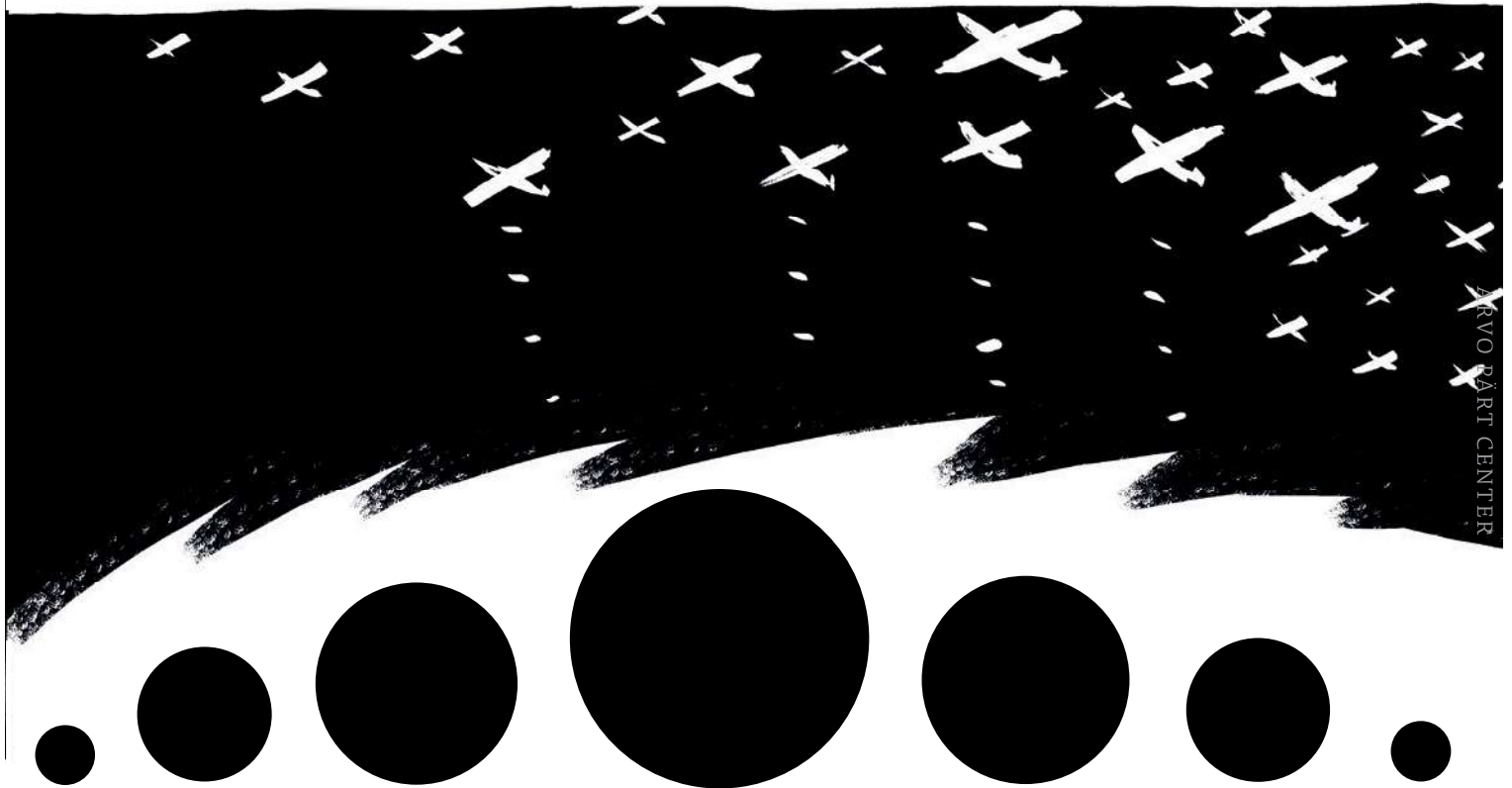
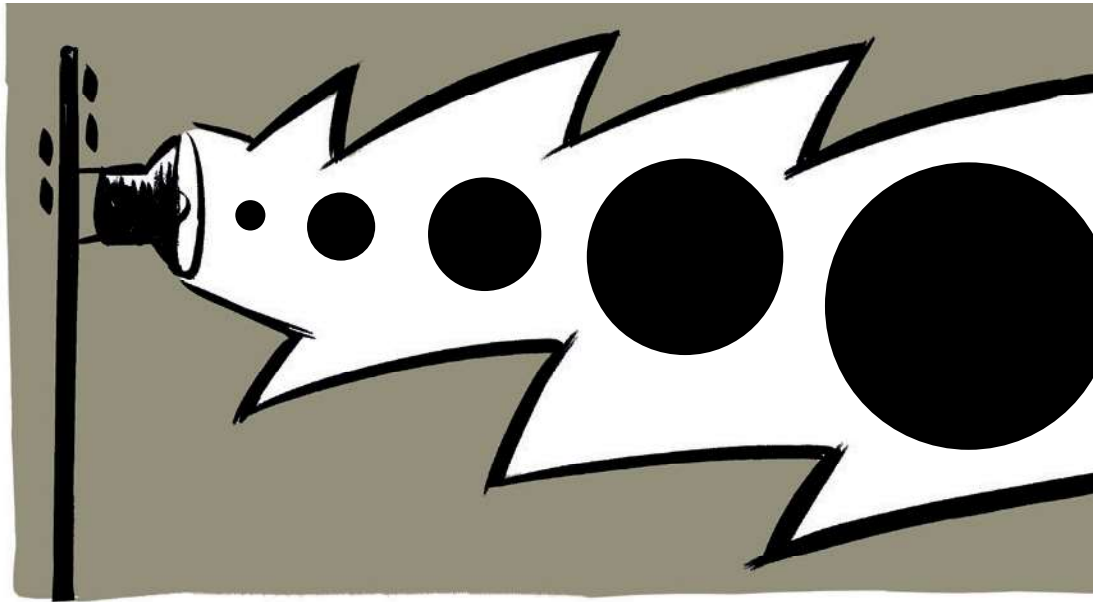
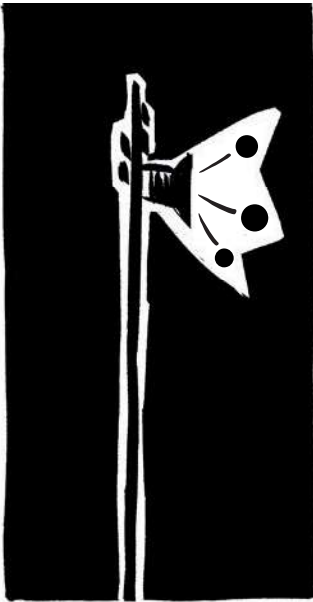


1944



RAKVERE MARKET SQUARE. THE CALM BEFORE THE STORM ...





ONE WEEK LATER, BACK IN RAKVERE. THE KUHMBERGS' HOUSE WAS UNTOUCHED BY THE BOMBING.



THOUGH RUSSIAN SOLDIERS DID COME A'LOOTING ...



1945



THE SCHOOL, WHICH WAS STARTED BY ENTHUSIASTS, DOESN'T HAVE ITS OWN SPACE YET.



MISS MARTIN IS AN OLD-FASHIONED WOMAN WHO HAS LITTLE EXPERIENCE WITH CHILDREN.



1947



WHAT A GOOD
JOB – YOU
PRACTICE AND
PRACTICE ALL
THE TIME!



HOWEVER, HIS TEACHER IS WORRIED ...



ARVO!
YOU'RE IN
TROUBLE
NOW!



MISS MARTIN SAYS
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN
PRACTICING AT ALL
LATELY.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE
PLAYING AT HOME, BUT IT
CERTAINLY ISN'T YOUR
HOMEWORK!



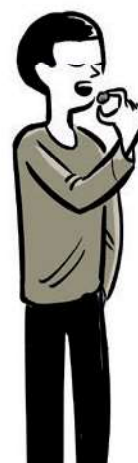
FROM NOW ON, YOU'LL MAKE AN X
NEXT TO EVERY EXERCISE YOU
FINISH. I'M GOING TO CHECK.



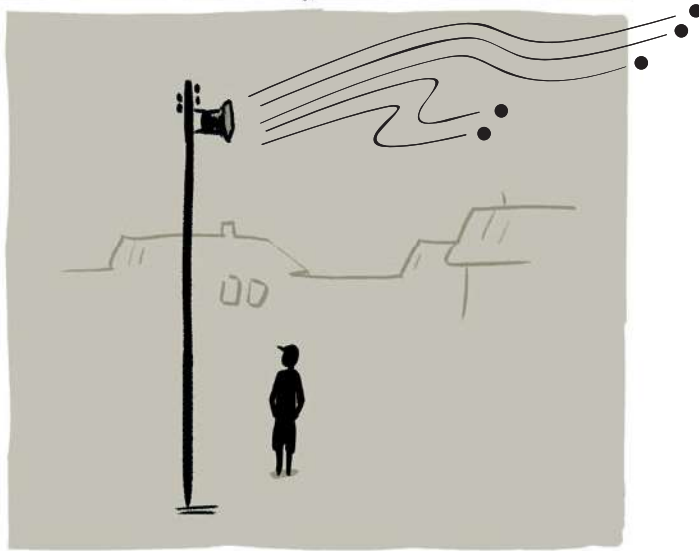
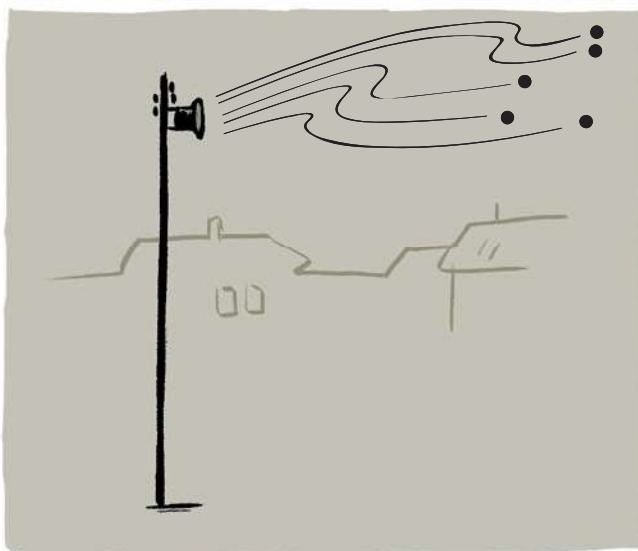
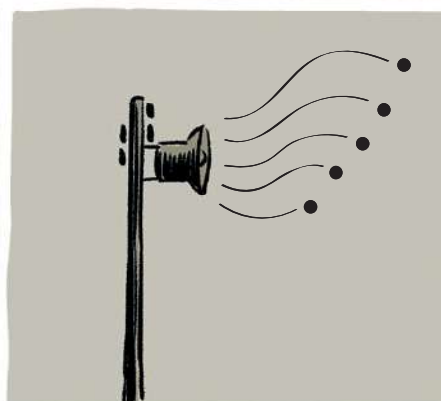
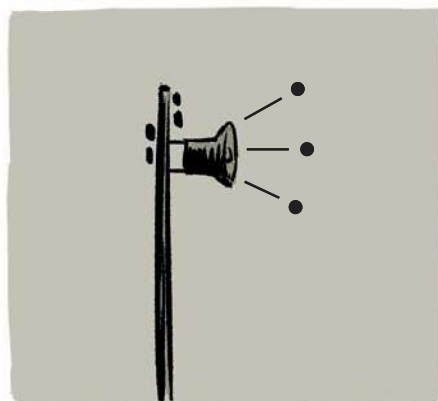
AND WHEN YOUR HOMEWORK
IS COMPLETE, YOU'LL GET
A NUT AS A REWARD!



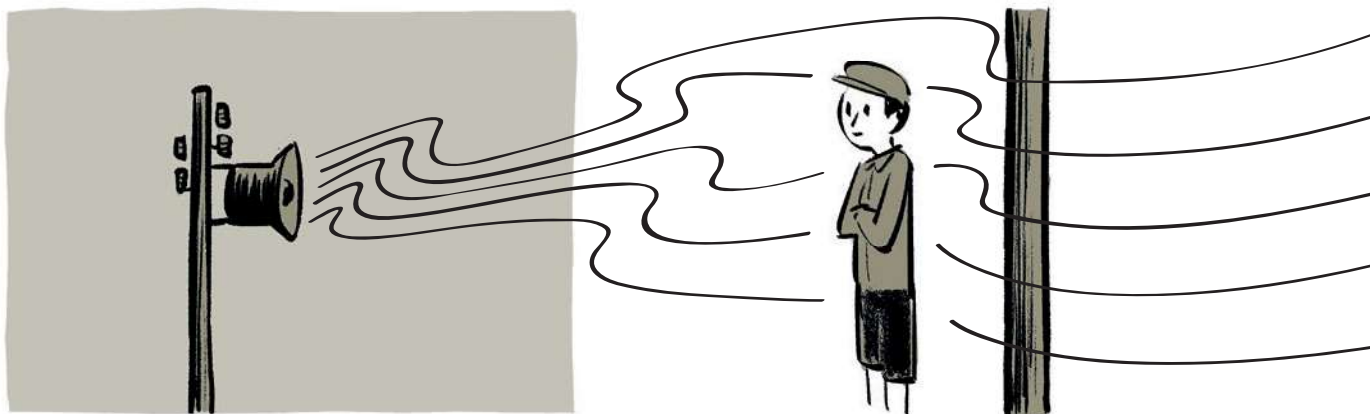
BUT MISS MARTIN
GIVES ME A PIECE
OF CHOCOLATE
FOR PLAYING
WELL!



1949



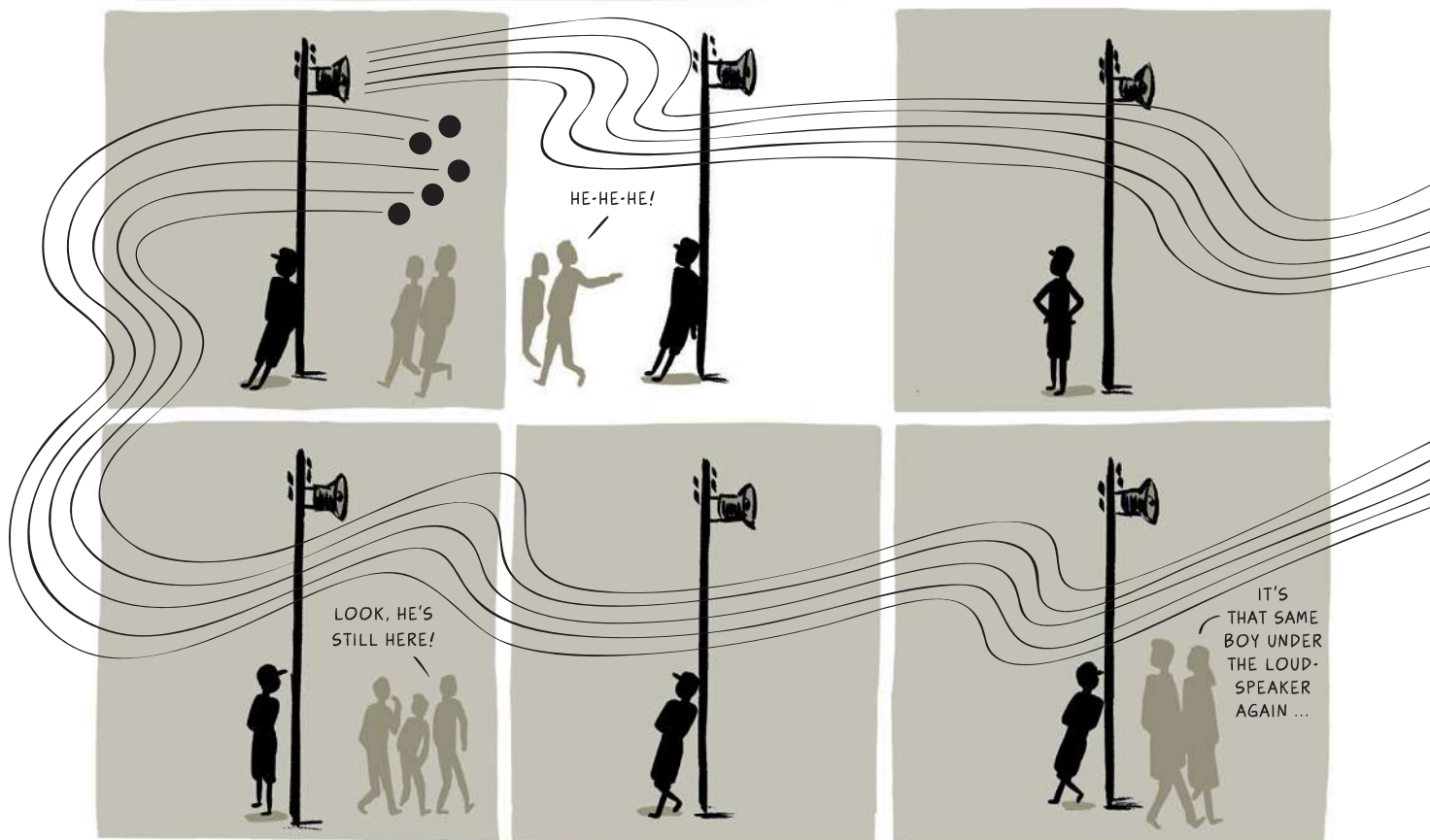
ESTONIAN RADIO IS PLAYED OVER THE LOUDSPEAKER ON RAKVERE'S MARKET SQUARE.



SINCE HE CAN'T ALWAYS LISTEN TO THE RADIO AT HOME, TEENAGE ARVO VISITS THE SPEAKER TO ENJOY SYMPHONY BROADCASTS.



ARVO PÄRT CENTER







OCCASIONALLY, THE WIND CARRIES FRAGMENTS OF MELODY TO THEIR GARDEN. IT BRINGS WITH IT A SENSE OF LONGING ...



BUT NOT QUITE LIKE THAT ...
A DIFFERENT KIND!

1951



HAVE YOU NOT DONE YOUR HOMEWORK?



OH, I WAS JUST IMPROVISING A LITTLE TO IT ...



WELL, FINE. I'M NOT GOING TO ARGUE ABOUT THAT TOPIC TODAY.

COME AND ACCOMPANY SINGERS AT THE MUSIC SCHOOL TOMORROW, THEN!



RAKVERE SECONDARY SCHOOL. ARVO ISN'T THRILLED ABOUT SCHOOLWORK. QUITE THE OPPOSITE ...



ARVO! DO YOU KNOW THE ANSWER?



PSST! WHAT'S THE ANSWER?

THINK FOR YOURSELF!



WE'RE WAITING!



BUT WHAT WAS THE QUESTION?





BUT DO YOU REMEMBER THE TIME HE WENT IN FRONT OF THE BLACKBOARD AND PRETENDED TO BE A CIRCUS ARTIST DURING PASSING PERIOD?

A TRUE ARTIST'S SOUL. HE-HE-HEE!



THE SCHOOL'S PIANO-BOY GETS A PASS FOR HIS EDUCATIONAL SHORTCOMINGS.

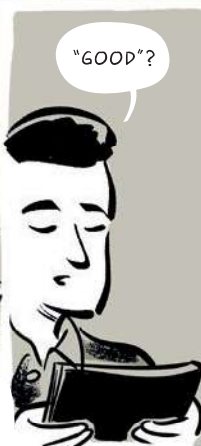




IN ADDITION TO PERFORMING AS AN ACCOMPANIST, THE YOUNG MAN IS UTILIZED AS AN OBOIST, FLUTIST, AND DRUMMER.



A BREAK AT MUSIC SCHOOL ...



VILJANDI. THE ANNUAL NATIONAL AMATEUR REVIEW, A COMPETITION FOR ORIGINAL WORKS.

1953



APPLAUSE FOR THE
RAKVERE MEN'S CHOIR!



WE HAVE ONE MORE
PERFORMER. A STUDENT FROM
RAKVERE SECONDARY SCHOOL
WILL PRESENT HIS PIANO PIECE.



... CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE WINNERS OF THIS
TOUGH COMPETITION FOR
ORIGINAL WORKS, AND WE
WISH EVERYONE CREATIVE
GUSTO IN THE FUTURE!



THERE'S NO MENTION OF THE YOUNG, PROMISING PIANIST ...



DO YOU THINK YOU
MIGHT SAY A COUPLE
ENCOURAGING WORDS
TO OUR PIANO-BOY?

THAT SCHOOLBOY'S
PIECE WAS NEITHER
SOCIALIST IN CONTENT
NOR NATIONALIST
IN STYLE.

THE JURY WAS
DIVIDED ...



ARVO VISITS THE DAYCARE WHERE HIS MOTHER WORKS EVERY DAY UNTIL THE END OF SECONDARY SCHOOL. HE ACCOMPANIES THE CHILDREN'S MUSIC LESSON, DURING WHICH HE ALSO LIKES TO IMPROVISE.



ARVO PART CENTER

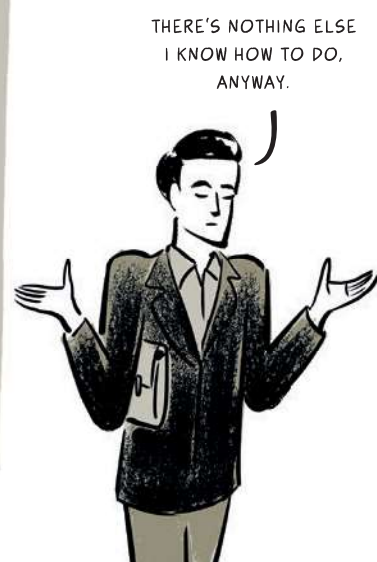


ARVO, YOU'VE FINISHED MUSIC SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL WILL BE OVER SOON, TOO ...

WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO NEXT?



I'M GOING TO AUDITION FOR THE TALLINN MUSIC COLLEGE.



THERE'S NOTHING ELSE I KNOW HOW TO DO, ANYWAY.

1954

LAULASMAA, NEAR TALLINN.



THANK YOU, MISS MARTIN,
FOR AGREEING TO HELP ME
PREPARE FOR THE AUDITIONS.

I INTEND TO
PERFORM MELODY,
FOR PIANO.



VERY NICE.
LET'S HAVE
A LISTEN.

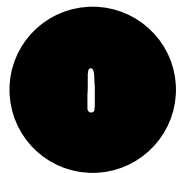
ARVO PÄRT CENTER

TO A. PÄRT, UPON GRADUATING FROM
THE RAKVERE SCHOOL OF MUSIC.
THE ABILITY TO NOTICE AND
THE TALENT TO FULLY HEAR A
SINGLE NOTE IS A COMPONENT
OF WISDOM.

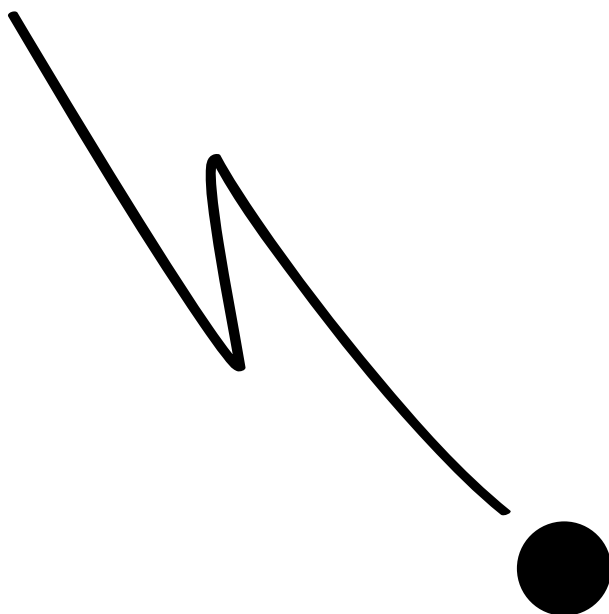
ILLE MARTIN
JUNE '53

ARVO REALIZES THE TRUE MEANING
OF HIS TEACHER'S DEDICATION
ONLY MANY YEARS LATER.

BUT MEANWHILE ...



CREDO



TALLINN!



HARRI OTSA RECEIVES HIM AT THE
TALLINN MUSIC COLLEGE AUDITION AUDITION.



AND HIS STUDIES COMMENCE, AT LEAST FOR A WHILE ...



IVALO ALSO INTRODUCES
HIM TO OTHER LOCALS.



ARVO, WHAT DO YOU SAY
WE GUESS THE PITCHES AND INTERVALS
OF THE TRAIN WHISTLES AGAIN? I'M SURE
THESE YOUNG LADIES ARE INTRIGUED BY
HOW SHARP YOUNG MUSICIANS'
EARS ARE ...

OH, CUT IT OUT!



2 MAJOR.



ARVO PART CEN ER

YET MUSIC SCHOOL MUST BE PUT ON HOLD, AS ARVO IS CALLED UP TO THE MILITARY.



1955

RIGA. LATVIAN SSR. THE JÄGALA REGIMENT IS PARTICIPATING IN A COMPETITION OF BALTIC SOVIET ARMY ORCHESTRAS.

AND THERE IS NO SHORTAGE OF COMPETITION ...



