Shostakovich’s life is a controversy in and of itself. On one hand, he led an official life in which he supported the basic tenets of communism and was even commissioned by the state to compose his Second Symphony to honor the tenth anniversary of Lenin’s 1917 Revolution. On other hand, he wrote music for himself and in 1936 was rebuked for claiming he was “generally not fit for the Russian people.

However, as with all art, interpretation is left open to individuals and these interpretations have shown the two sides of Shotakovich.

Writing about the two sides of a historical figure – analysis and argument