

FROM AN ARTICLE BY PROF. B. MEILAH
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The well-known Composer S. Prokofiev has pointed out that for a not very long melody of 8 notes "within one octave up and down" the number of variations will be expressed by the number 25 in the Seventh Power, in other words, the composer will have about 6 Billion of combinations from which he can choose such which are most melodious. If one is to add that rhythm and harmony give to the melody a special character then the number of combinations will greatly increase.

And what of the literary subjects, the Professor of the Leningrad University, B.F. Egorov has calculated that the possibilities of selection of different variations, for instance, out of 36 subject matters, the variations will be expressed by the fantastically grandiose figure of 12 septillions. For instance that everyone of the 3 billion inhabitants of this earth would every month create one subject variant out of these motives they will exhaust these variants after 10 billion years of continuous labour.

*From Russia -
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