



Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

May 7, 1840 – November 6, 1893

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, a renowned Russian composer, was born on May 7, 1840, in Votkinsk, a small town in the Russian Empire. He came from a family with a strong cultural background, and his early exposure to music laid the foundation for his future success.

Tchaikovsky's musical journey began with piano lessons at the age of five. After three years, he was said to have become as well-versed in reading sheet music as his teacher. At ten years old, he began to study at the Imperial School of Jurisprudence in St. Petersburg. Sadly, his mother passed away a few years later when he was only fourteen.

Tchaikovsky began his first serious composition while he grieved her loss, a waltz to honor his mother. After he graduated, he began work in civil service. However, his passion for music prevailed, and he later enrolled at the St. Petersburg Conservatory, where he honed his skills in composition. One of Tchaikovsky's breakthrough moments occurred with the premiere of his *Symphony No. 1*, also known as *Winter Daydreams*, in 1866. This marked the start of his ascent in the music world. His compositions often drew inspiration from Russian folk melodies, incorporating them into symphonies, ballets, and operas.

Tchaikovsky ventured into the world of ballet compositions when he began working on his famous *Swan Lake*, which was not initially well-received by critics but today is one of the most popular ballets of all time. Tchaikovsky's later collaboration with the renowned ballet dancer and choreographer Marius Petipa resulted in some of his most celebrated works, including *The Nutcracker* and *The Sleeping Beauty*. These ballets showcased his ability to weave captivating melodies with emotional depth, capturing the hearts of audiences worldwide.

Despite his musical successes, Tchaikovsky faced personal challenges, including his grief over his mother's early death when he was fourteen, as well as his shy and sensitive nature. His emotions and experiences found expression in his compositions, adding a layer of sincerity to his music.

The year 1893 saw the premiere of Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No. 6*, also known as the *Pathétique Symphony*. Tragically, this powerful piece became his final symphony, as Tchaikovsky passed away shortly after its debut. The circumstances of his death remain a subject of speculation and mystery.

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's legacy endures through his timeless compositions, which continue to enchant and inspire generations. His ability to convey profound emotions through music, coupled with his dedication to Russian cultural influences, solidifies his place as one of the great composers in classical music history.

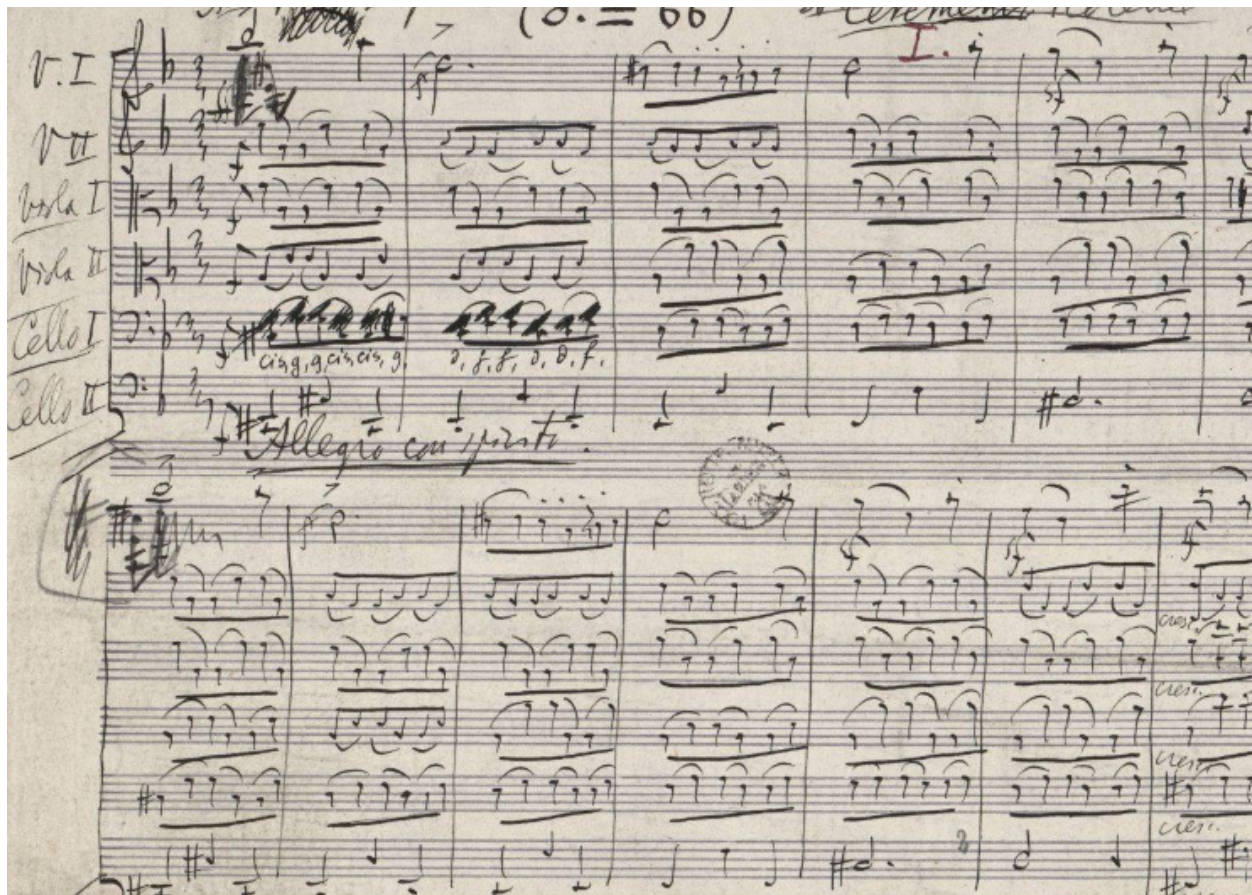
Classical Pieces

Week 1 - Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy

Week 2 - Swan Lake

Week 3 - The Sleeping Beauty

Week 4 - Romeo and Juliet



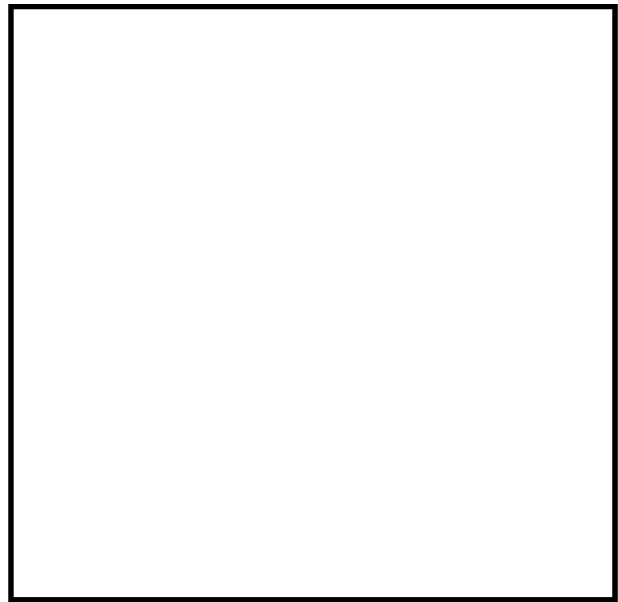
Composer Study

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Place of Birth: _____

Composer Fun Facts:



Instruments Used: _____

Famous Compositions: _____

Further Study:
