

# Famous Composers

Name:

Date:



## The composer

In this worksheet, you will learn about a famous composer and an important work they composed. First, read the informational text, then fill out the profile.

## Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky was born on May 7, 1840, in Votkinsk, Russia, and he died on November 6, 1893, in St. Petersburg, Russia. Tchaikovsky was a famous composer from the Romantic era. This period is known for music that is full of emotion and expression.

Tchaikovsky's music is very emotional and dramatic. He used lots of different instruments to create rich and colorful sounds. Sometimes his music can make you feel happy, and other times it can make you feel sad or excited. His melodies are beautiful and easy to remember.

Some of Tchaikovsky's most important works include "Swan Lake," "The Nutcracker," and "The 1812 Overture." "Swan Lake" and "The Nutcracker" are ballets, which means they are written for dancers. These ballets are still performed all over the world today. "The 1812 Overture" is a very famous piece that celebrates a Russian military victory. It even uses cannons as part of the music!

Tchaikovsky was influenced by many other musicians. He admired the music of Mozart and Beethoven, and he learned a lot from their works. He also liked the music of his Russian contemporaries, such as Mily Balakirev. Tchaikovsky was able to take these influences and create his own unique style that people still love today.

Tchaikovsky's music has inspired many other composers and musicians. His ability to express deep emotions through his music has made him one of the most beloved composers in history. Even now, people listen to and perform his music all around the world.

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**Name**

**Birth and death**

**Representative of which musical era**

**Characteristics of his/her music**

**Important works**

**Influence by other musicians**

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## Additional information for teachers



### Name

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

### Birth and death

Born on May 7, 1840, in Votkinsk, Russia; died on November 6,...

### Representative of which musical era

Romantic era

### Characteristics of his/her music

Emotional, dramatic, uses a variety of instruments for rich and colorful sounds, memorable melodies

### Important works

"Swan Lake," "The Nutcracker," "The 1812 Overture"

### Influence by other musicians

Admired Mozart and Beethoven, influenced by Russian contemporaries like Mily Balakirev

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## A famous piece of music

In the following audio text, you will learn more about a famous piece of music by the composer.



## Audio Content

To listen to audio content just scan the QR code and listen to it on the digital worksheet.

**For each question, choose the correct answer.**

**What inspired Tchaikovsky to compose the ballet 'The Nutcracker'?**

- A legend from Russian folklore
- A fairy tale by the Brothers Grimm
- A story called 'The Nutcracker and the Mouse King' by E.T.A. Hoffmann
- A poem by Alexander Pushkin

**What is unique about the instrument called the celesta in 'The Nutcracker'?**

- It is played by blowing into it like a flute
- It is a string instrument used in the waltz sequences
- It is a type of drum used in the battle scenes
- It makes a beautiful, sparkly sound used in the 'Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy'

**Why is 'The Nutcracker' especially popular during the Christmas season?**

- Because it includes traditional Christmas carols
- Because it features Santa Claus as a character
- Because it is based on a holiday story and includes a magical adventure on Christmas Eve
- Because it was originally performed only during Christmas

**Which of the following is true about the initial reception of 'The Nutcracker'?**

- It was not very popular when it was first performed
- It was an immediate success and loved by everyone
- It was banned by the Russian government
- It was only performed once and then forgotten

**What is the main theme captured by the music of 'The Nutcracker'?**

- The daily life of Russian peasants
- The magic and wonder of a young girl's adventure with her nutcracker doll
- The harsh realities of war    The struggle for independence

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## Listen to the music

If you want to listen to the music that was just introduced, you can do so via the following link. Have fun!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jNQWdaFoiN4>

