



MUSIC FOR BALLET



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Dance Music Week



GETTING STARTED:



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h0olVpgMN0Y>



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YOU WILL LEARN:

about music composed for Ballet by:

- Learning about the history of Ballet
- Learning about one of the most famous composers of music for Ballet
- Listening to different pieces of Ballet music
- Learning to play some famous themes from Ballet music



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A BRIEF HISTORY OF BALLET:

- **Ballet** is a style of dance which is given as a performance and watched by an audience.
- It started over 400 years ago in France, and was further developed in England, Italy and Russia.



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A BRIEF HISTORY OF BALLET:

Many words to describe Ballet are in French:

- Corps de Ballet – the ensemble or ‘chorus’ of ballet dancers
- Danseur – male solo dancer
- Ballerina – female solo dancer
- Pas de Deux – dance duet for lead male and lead female



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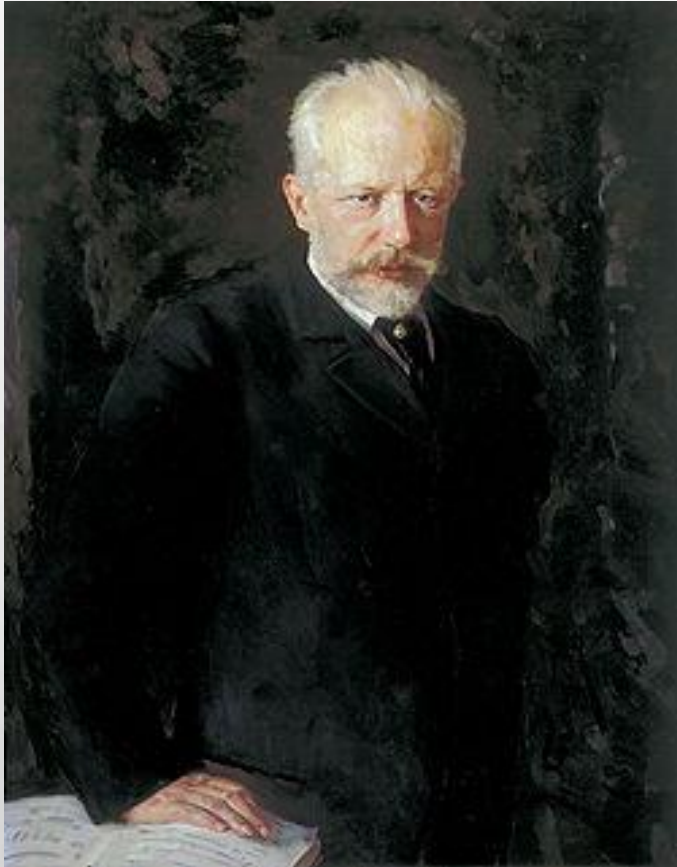
MUSIC WRITTEN FOR BALLET

The music written for ballet needs to express the emotion of the story. It also needs to have a clear beat for the dancers to keep time to it.

A composer changes the mood of the music by changing:

- The time signature
- The tempo
- The dynamics
- The instruments used

TCHAIKOVSKY



Tchaikovsky was a famous Russian composer who lived from 1840-1893.

He composed music during the **Romantic** period which was from 1810-1900.

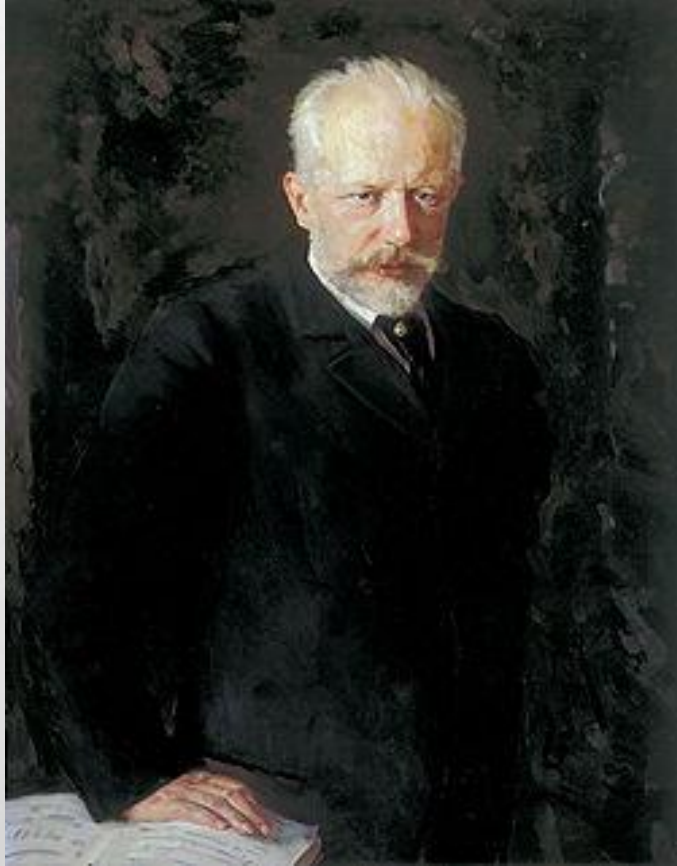
He is one of the most well known composers of Ballet music.



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TCHAIKOVSKY: MUSIC FOR SWAN LAKE



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=opb5rnRFmMs>

Watch some of this film clip.

What is the time signature of this music?

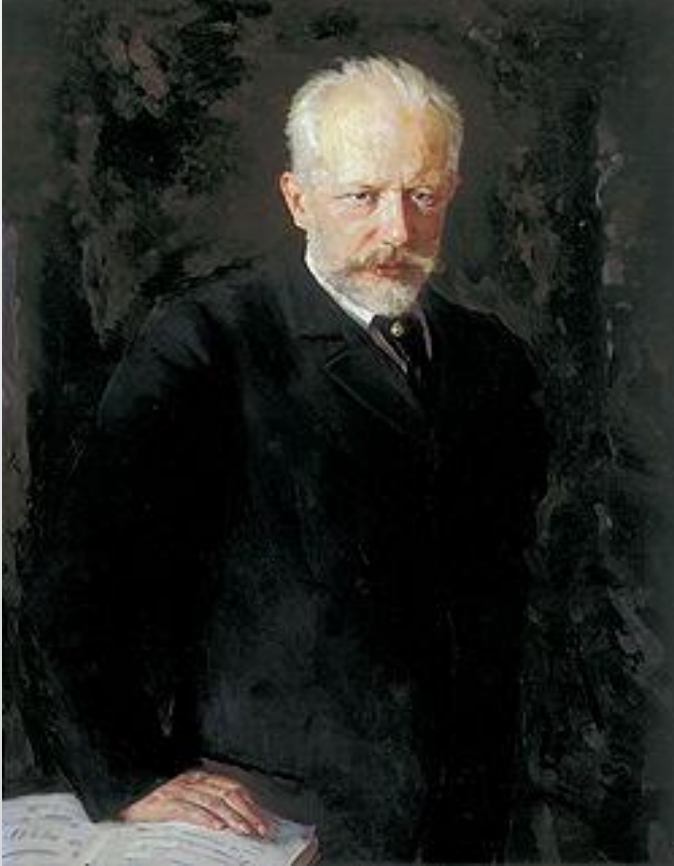
The string instruments are being played in two different ways. Can you name the two different ways?



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TCHAIKOVSKY: MUSIC FOR THE NUTCRACKER



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wz_f9B4pPtg

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

Watch some of these film clips.

Describe the **tempo** and **dynamics** of the music in each piece.

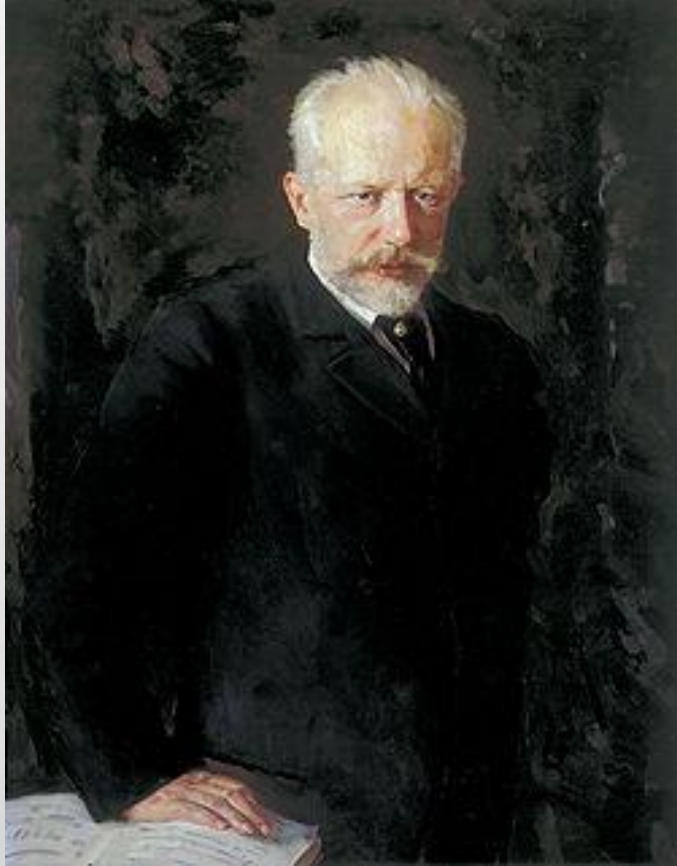
Notice how the dancers move very precisely in response to the music.



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TCHAIKOVSKY: SLEEPING BEAUTY



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u4aLleg2Mik>

Watch the first three minutes of this clip.

Name the instruments playing the melody at the start.

Why does the tempo change?

Give some words to describe the dynamics.

What is the instrument playing at 1 min 40 secs?



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PERFORM SOME BALLET THEMES:

Choose from the three themes on the Tchaikovsky Ballet Music sheet and perform on an instrument of your choice. Add in the left hand chords if you are playing on keyboard or piano. You could play either:

- Theme from the Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairies
- The Waltz from Sleeping Beauty
- The March from the Nutcracker

FURTHER RESEARCH

1. Where did Ballet come from and when?
2. Find out some of the French words used to describe things in Ballet.
3. Who was Tchaikovsky and when did he live?
4. Find out the story of 'Swan Lake'.
5. Find out the story of 'The Nutcracker'.
6. Find out the story of 'Sleeping Beauty'.