Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
( P’YOH-turr ILL-yitch chy-KOFF-skee )

1840 – 1893

• He began piano lessons at age 5 and his great talents were noticed early.
• He began his adult career as a clerk at the Ministry of Justice, but soon decided to follow his dream and entered the St. Petersburg Conservatory of Music.
• He did well in school and got a job teaching music at the Conservatory. He also worked as a composer and music critic.

• The Nutcracker ballet was first performed in 1892. As popular as the ballet is today, you might be surprised that it wasn’t a success when it was first presented.

• Other famous Tchaikovsky ballets are The Sleeping Beauty and Swan Lake.

• Tchaikovsky composed 3 ballets, 11 operas, 8 symphonies, 12 concertos, and many other orchestral, chamber, piano and vocal works.

Listen to The Sleeping Beauty: Waltz. Can you hear the dancing?