

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

1840 – 1893

(P'YOH-turr ILL-yitch chy-KOFF-skee)



- 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?