

**A Tribute To Tchaikovsky
A Concert By
The Community Band Of Brevard
October 1993**

Coronation March

Tchaikovsky composed the Coronation March for the coronation of Tzar Alexander III in 1883. It is one of the composer's least known works, and was never given an opus number. Following the initial theme (strikingly similar to the "Halleluja" chorus in Handel's Messiah), are figures reminiscent of the 1812 Overture, brass fanfares recalling the brilliant Polonaise in Eugene Onegin, and an actual quotation of the old Tsarist anthem, which Tchaikovsky had used earlier in both 1812 and Marche Slave.

Francesca da Rimini

Francesca da Rimini is a symphonic fantasy based upon part of Dante's Inferno. It was first performed in 1877. In this work, Tchaikovsky portrays in music the description that Dante gives of Francesca da Rimini's life and fate in hell.

Eugene Onegin

Eugene Onegin is an opera in three acts with libretto by Tchaikovsky and Shilovsky based on a novel by Pushkin. It was first performed in 1879 at the Imperial College of Music in Moscow.

None But the Lonely Heart

Tchaikovsky wrote approximately 100 songs. None But the Lonely Heart is one of 6 songs that he wrote in November and December, 1869 and published in 1870 as Opus Number 6. The words are from "Mignon's Song" in Goethe's Wilhelm Meister.

Violin Concerto

Tchaikovsky dedicated this concerto to Leopold Auer in 1878. Auer, however, rejected it because he felt that it was too radical. The work went unplayed until Adolf Brodsky, a Russian violinist trained in Vienna, performed it in Vienna in December 1881. Despite some initial criticism and its extreme difficulty, it soon became a standard repertory piece.

Swan Lake

Swan Lake is probably the most famous ballet of all time, yet it was poorly received during Tchaikovsky's lifetime. The first performance was in 1877 at the Bolshoi Theater and suffered from inept choreography, scenery, and conducting. It was not until 1895, two years after Tchaikovsky's death, that ballet master Marius Petipa revived the score and revealed the true beauty of the work.

Sleeping Beauty

Tchaikovsky rightly believed that *The Sleeping Beauty* was one of his best works. It premiered at the Maryinsky Theater, St. Petersburg, in 1890 and was a huge success. The ballet (prologue and three acts) is based on a fairy tale by Charles Perrault and was choreographed by the great French ballet master Marius Petipa who influenced the style and development of Russian ballet for nearly three generations. *The Sleeping Beauty* contains some of Petipa's finest dances and is Tchaikovsky's most consistently successful theater piece.

Marche Militaire

Marche Militaire was an original work for band which Tchaikovsky wrote for the 98th Yurev regiment. It is one of the last of Tchaikovsky's works, being composed in April and May, 1893 and published posthumously in 1894 for piano.

Symphony Number 4, Finale

1877 was a fateful year for Tchaikovsky. In that year he began his long correspondence with his benefactor, Madame von Meck. Also in that year, his short, unhappy marriage took place. Those experiences had a stimulating effect on his creative powers. Tchaikovsky completed the Fourth Symphony in 1878, and it established his international renown as a symphonist. He dedicated the symphony to his benefactor, Madame von Meck.

Of the fiery and boisterous final movement, Tchaikovsky said that it is "a depiction of the mood of a folk festival". Two themes dominate the movement: the main theme, which bursts in at the opening with a flourish of cymbals, and the second theme, which quotes a Russian folk song ("In the fields there stands a birch tree") and provides sharp dynamic contrast to the first.

1812 Overture

Tchaikovsky composed this rousing work in 1882 to commemorate the seventieth anniversary of Napoleon's retreat from Moscow in 1812. Intending his music for outdoor performance, Tchaikovsky scored it for large orchestra and an expanded percussion section that included actual cannon which were to boom at intervals. The introductory theme in the woodwinds is the Russian hymn "God, Preserve Thy People". The French army is represented by the "Marseillaise" (the French national anthem) and the Russian army by "God Save the Tzar" (the Russian national anthem). The latter ends the number to jubilantly proclaim a Russian victory.



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