

♪ Musical Notes ♪

March 2021

Normally at this time of year we are well into learning music for our spring concert. While we would LOVE to be able to perform with an in-person audience, it was decided that we cannot yet have that large of a crowd in the gym. All the elementary classes are still working on learning concert music, but we have to get a little creative. The current plan is to set up the gym with risers, and perform as if it was a live concert. Instead of a live audience, we will live-stream or record it for you to view at home. We will be performing “Happy Birthday, Hans!” which is a celebration of the many fairy tales written by Hans Christian Andersen. I think it will be a lot of fun!

Composer-of-the-Month



Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

- Lived: 1840 – 1893
- Nationality: Russian
- Style/Period: Romantic

Piotr (or Peter, as we would say in English) Ilyich Tchaikovsky was a good musician as a kid, but since that wasn't considered an "acceptable" profession his parents made him study law instead. Eventually he gave up his legal job and went to study music, which was his true passion. After he graduated, he moved to Moscow to teach music theory at the new conservatory there.

For years, Tchaikovsky had a patroness named Nadezhda von Meck -- a wealthy widow who was a big fan of Tchaikovsky's music. She sent him money so that he could concentrate on composing without having to worry about making a living. But Madame von Meck didn't want to meet Tchaikovsky - they only communicated by writing letters to each other.

Tchaikovsky traveled all over Europe for performances of his music. In 1891, he even came to America for the opening of Carnegie Hall, where he was invited to conduct his music.

Listening suggestions:

The Nutcracker Suite, Swan Lake, 1812 Overture