

## ♪ Musical Notes ♪

March 2024

What's happening in the music room?

- ❖ Kindergarten through fifth are starting to work on music for the spring concert. Save the date – Friday, May 10th!
- ❖ Fourth grade is starting to learn how to play recorders.
- ❖ Middle school is reviewing pitch names and working on analyzing written music.

### 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*