

The NAXOS logo is a blue square with the word "NAXOS" in white, serif, all-caps font. Above the text are five white vertical lines of varying heights, resembling a stylized architectural element or a musical staff.

# GREAT COMPOSERS



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IN WORDS AND MUSIC



# TCHAIKOVSKY



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# PYOTR IL'YICH TCHAIKOVSKY

(1840–1893)

Is there any music more instantly recognisable and beautifully scored than Tchaikovsky's wildly popular ballet *Swan Lake*? These and other works have become enduring classics, yet they were not uncontroversial in Tchaikovsky's day, and there are those that still wonder if his style is fundamentally European or ardently Russian. Find out more about Tchaikovsky's childhood obsession with music, his turbulent relationships with friends and colleagues, and how he overcame the deepest of personal crises to transcend all with a creative ambition that has left us with some of the greatest music ever written. The narrative is illustrated with musical excerpts from *Piano Concerto No. 1*, *Symphonies Nos. 4 and 6*, the *1812 Overture*, *The Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake* and *The Sleeping Beauty*, among others.

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Written by Davinia Caddy

The script is available for download at [www.naxos.com/notes/578369.htm](http://www.naxos.com/notes/578369.htm)

Text recorded: 10 November 2022

Producer: Neil Rosser • Editing and post production: Sarah Butcher

Cover photograph: Tchaikovsky in London, 1893

- |  |  |      |
|--|--|------|
| 1  | Introduction   | 0:11 |
| <br>   |  |      |
| <b>Pyotr Il'yich Tchaikovsky (1840–1893)</b> |  |      |
| 2  | <b>Swan Lake, Op. 20, Act II – By a Lake: Scene – The swans swim on the lake</b><br>Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra • Michael Halász<br>(Naxos 8.553271, © 1987)                                   | 1:18 |
| 3  | <i>Can there be music more instantly recognisable, more wildly popular, more beautifully scored? Pyotr Il'yich Tchaikovsky's 1876 ballet Swan Lake is nowadays considered a classic...</i>       | 6:44 |
| 4  | <b>Marche slave ('Slavonic March'), Op. 31</b><br>Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra • Stephen Gunzenhauser<br>(Naxos 8.550191, © 1987)   | 0:53 |
| 5  | <i>We heard an extract from Tchaikovsky's 1876 orchestral piece Marche slave ('Slavonic March')...</i>   | 4:20 |
| <br>   |  |      |
| <b>Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–1791)</b>   |  |      |
| 6  | <b>Don Giovanni – Act II, Scene 6: Aria – Vedrai, carino ('You will see, my dear')</b><br>Ildikó Raimondi, Soprano • Nicolaus Esterházy Sinfonia • Michael Halász<br>(Naxos 8.660080-82, © 2001) | 1:12 |
| 7  | <i>Tchaikovsky's arrival at the preparatory school in St Petersburg, some 1,000 miles from the family home in Alapayevsk...</i>  | 4:56 |
| <br>   |  |      |
| <b>Pyotr Il'yich Tchaikovsky</b>             |  |      |
| 8  | <b>Moy geniy, moy angel, moy drug ('My Genius, My Angel, My Friend')</b><br>Ljuba Kazarnovskaya, Soprano • Ljuba Orfenova, Piano<br>(Naxos 8.555371, © 2001)                                     | 1:54 |
| 9  | <i>Tchaikovsky graduated from the School of Jurisprudence on 25 May 1859...</i>  | 6:44 |
| <br>   |  |      |
| 10   | <b>Groza ('The Storm'), Overture, Op. 76</b><br>Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra • Antoni Wit<br>(Naxos 8.550716, © 1993)  | 2:01 |
| 11   | <i>On graduation at the end of 1865, Tchaikovsky was offered the role of music theory teacher at the soon-to-open Moscow Conservatory...</i>   | 5:41 |

- 12 **Symphony No. 2 in C minor, Op. 17 ‘Little Russian’ – I. Andante sostenuto** 1:34  
Deutsche Radio Philharmonie Saarbrücken Kaiserslautern • Christoph Poppen  
(Oehms Classics OC762, © 2009 & 2010)
- 13 *Around this time, the early 1870s, Tchaikovsky enjoyed some success  
as an aspiring composer...* 4:28
- 14 **The Oprichnik – Act I: Pochudilis’ mne budito golosa i shum shagov**  
**(‘I thought I heard some voices’)** (Sung in Russian) 1:22  
Elena Lassoskaya, Soprano • Cagliari Theatre Orchestra • Gennady Rozhdestvensky  
(Dynamic CDS430, © 2003)
- 15 *Towards the end of 1874, the same year in which The Oprichnik premiered,  
Tchaikovsky began to work on what would become one of his most popular works...* 2:52
- 16 **Piano Concerto No. 1 in B flat minor, Op. 23 – I. Allegro non troppo e molto maestoso** 2:38  
Bernd Glemser, Piano • Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra • Antoni Wit  
(Naxos 8.550819, © 1996)
- 17 *The mid-1870s witnessed the further development of Tchaikovsky’s career,  
and his increasing popularity with listeners...* 5:02
- 18 **Symphony No. 4 in F minor, Op. 36 – I. Andante sostenuto** 1:08  
Colorado Symphony Orchestra • Marin Alsop  
(Naxos 8.555714, © 2002)
- 19 *In the years that followed his ill-fated marriage, Tchaikovsky became reclusive...* 1:10
- 20 **1812 Overture, Op. 49** 1:30  
National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine • Theodore Kuchar  
(Naxos 8.555923, © 2003)
- 21 *In the mid-1880s, Tchaikovsky decided to return to the Moscow region and settle down...* 2:55
- 22 **Suite No. 4 in G major, Op. 61 ‘Mozartiana’ – III. Preghiera** 1:23  
National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland • Stefan Sanderling  
(Naxos 8.550728, © 1994)

- 23 *In the final years of Tchaikovsky's life, his compositional pace seemed to increase...* 1:38
- 24 **The Sleeping Beauty, Op. 66 – Act I: Valse** 1:10  
Slovak State Philharmonic Orchestra (Košice) • Andrew Mogrelia  
(Naxos 8.550490-92, © 1991)
- 25 *A second example from the ballet illustrates Tchaikovsky's characteristically atmospheric musical style...* 0:42
- 26 **The Sleeping Beauty, Op. 66 – Act II: Panorama** 1:24  
Slovak State Philharmonic Orchestra (Košice) • Andrew Mogrelia  
(Naxos 8.550490-92, © 1991)
- 27 *Tchaikovsky's third and final ballet, The Nutcracker, was premiered at the Mariinsky Theatre on 18 December 1892...* 1:20
- 28 **The Nutcracker, Op. 71 – Act II, Tableau 3: Coda** 1:18  
Russian National Orchestra • Mikhail Pletnev  
(Ondine ODE1180-2D, © 2011)
- 29 *Although the Tsar, present at the final dress rehearsal, was complimentary towards Tchaikovsky and enthusiastic about The Nutcracker...* 4:18
- 30 **Symphony No. 6 in B minor, Op. 74 'Pathétique' – IV. Finale: Adagio lamentoso** 1:55  
Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra • Antoni Wit  
(Naxos 8.550782, © 1993)

## Nicholas Boulton

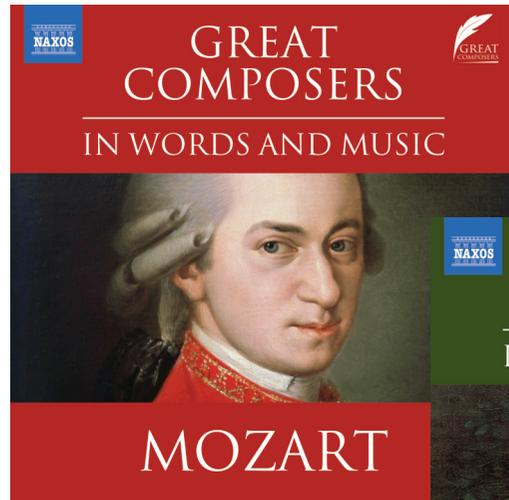


Nicholas Boulton graduated from The Guildhall School of Music and Drama, winning the BBC Carleton Hobbs Award for Radio. He has since featured in countless BBC radio dramas, narrated a plethora of award-winning audiobooks, and died a thousand deaths in various video games. Film, TV and theatre appearances include *Shakespeare in Love*, *Game of Thrones* and *Wolf Hall* (RSC).

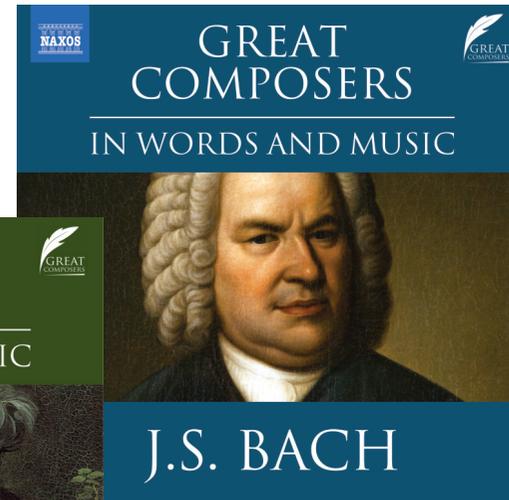
## Davinia Caddy

Davinia Caddy studied music at the University of Cambridge, where she graduated with a BA (Hons), MPhil and, in 2005, a PhD. Her doctoral dissertation was broadly based on French musical culture from 1890 to 1914. She has since taught at the Universities of Oxford, Oxford Brookes and Auckland. Her books include *The Ballets Russes and Beyond: Music and Dance in Belle-Époque Paris* (Cambridge University Press, 2012), *Musicology and Dance: Historical and Critical Perspectives* (Cambridge University Press, 2020, co-edited with Maribeth Clark), and *How to Hear Classical Music*, a contemporary guide to the Western classical repertoire written for the general public (Awa Press, 2013).

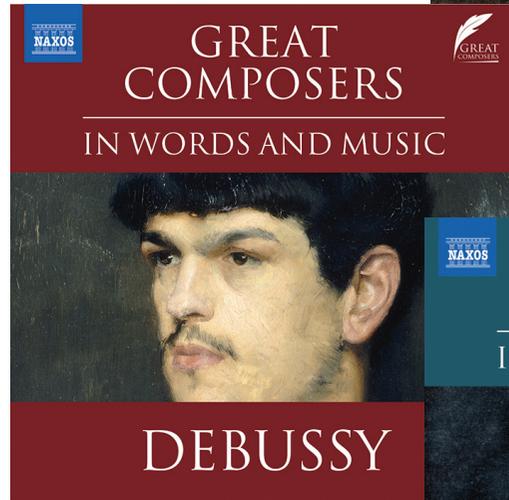
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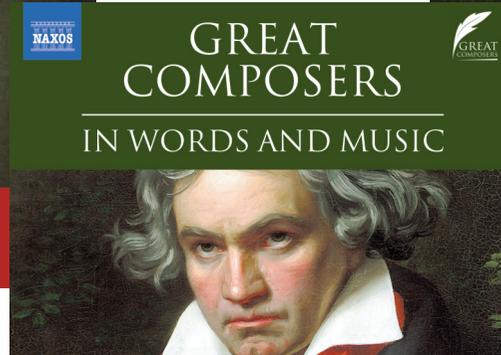
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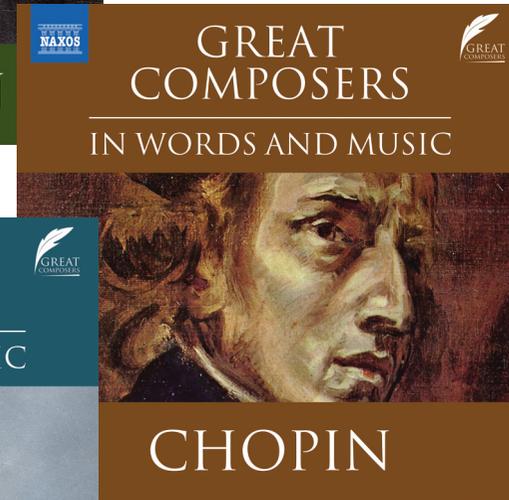
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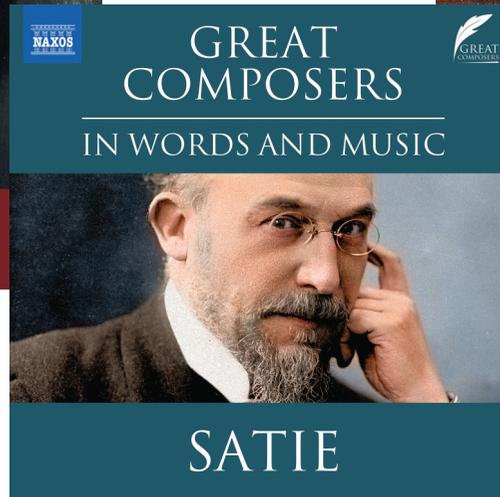
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# GREAT COMPOSERS IN WORDS AND MUSIC



## PYOTR IL'YICH TCHAIKOVSKY

WRITTEN BY DAVINIA CADDY  
NARRATED BY NICHOLAS BOULTON



Is there any music more instantly recognisable and beautifully scored than Tchaikovsky's wildly popular ballet *Swan Lake*? These and other works have become enduring classics, yet they were not uncontroversial in Tchaikovsky's day, and there are those that still wonder if his style is fundamentally European or ardently Russian. Find out more about Tchaikovsky's childhood obsession with music, his turbulent relationships with friends and colleagues, and how he overcame the deepest of personal crises to transcend all with a creative ambition that has left us with some of the greatest music ever written. The narrative is illustrated with musical excerpts from *Piano Concerto No. 1*, *Symphonies Nos. 4 and 6*, the *1812 Overture*, *The Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake* and *The Sleeping Beauty*, among others.

A detailed track list can be found inside the booklet.

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