

*Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky*  
*Romantic Period*  
*1840-1893*



*Tchaikovsky didn't begin studying music seriously until he was 22. He had only taken a few music classes here and there. After graduating from school, he became a clerk.*

*While working, he wrote a song and started to consider music as a career. At 22, he left his job and moved to Moscow, Russia, where he was an instructor of music theory at the conservatory. This job let him continue composing.*

*Tchaikovsky completed his first symphony in 1868, he was only 28. Then a year later, he wrote an opera and later on, he started writing music for ballets. In 1878, he married, but the marriage fell apart soon after.*

*A wealthy widow named Nadezhda Filaretovno Von Meck, started supporting him financially, so he could continue composing. When Tchaikovsky was 48, the Russian government saw his talent and gave him an annual salary for life! Once Nadezhda heard this, she stopped supporting Tchaikovsky.*

*Tchaikovsky visited the U.S. in 1891, and conducted the 1812 overture at the grand opening of the Carnegie Hall. He died two years later in St. Petersburg. Without the support from Nadeshda and the Russian government, Tchaikovsky might of spent his entire career at the Moscow Conservatory.*

- 1. How old was Tchaikovsky, when he started studying music? \_\_\_\_\_*
- 2. What job did Tchaikovsky get at Russia? \_\_\_\_\_*
- 3. What was the name of the widow that supported Tchaikovsky?*
- 4. Where did Tchaikovsky conduct the 1812 overture at? \_\_\_\_\_*