# **Listening Lesson 3**

# The Nutcracker Suite by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)



Based on one of the tales of E.T.A. Hoffman, the story of the Nutcracker and the Mouse King, Tchaikovsky's ballet tells the tale of a little girl, Clara, and her Christmas Eve adventures.

As is common with large works such as ballets, Tchaikovsky chose a selection of much from the ballet and created "The Nutcracker Suite" intended for concert perform the second s

Q. 1	
The music you will be listening to is from the second act of the ballet. Sun paris the	story of the
first act of the ballet here. (An <b>act</b> is a section of a large work).	
"Dance of the Mirlitons"	1
In the ballet, this dance is one many dances grouped together. It is played during a scene where Clar is being entertained at a sumptuous banquet.	
The "Dance of the Mirlitor" (Liso called "Dance of the Reed Pipes" or "Dan	
Q. 2	
What family construments is playing at the very beginning of this excerpt?Q_3	
W. que are they using to play in this manner?	
Q. 4	
What is the time signature?Write this at the start of the rhyt	hm in <b>Q. 10</b> .
Q. 5	
What instruments play the melody?	
Q. 6	
What orchestral family do they belong to?	
0.7	

What other instruments are in this family?

## Q. 8

Circle the words below that describe the rhythm of the melody.

Simple Complex Driving Repetitive Relaxed Energetic Clear Unclear

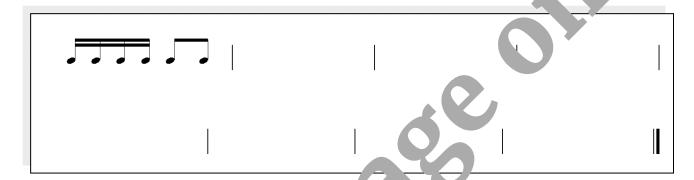
#### Q. 9

Circle the words below that describe the tempo (speed) of this rhythm.

Fast Slow Very Slow Very Fast Moderate Steady Rapid

#### Q. 10

Notate the rhythm of the first eight bars of this melody. The first bar is done for you be not be confused by the glissandi, (very fast runs of notes), and grace notes, (short, which notes before a main note), that are in this melody for decoration and are not part of the manner.



# "Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy"

In the ballet, this music is played during a scen where Clara and the Prince have returned to the Land of Sweets (where the Prince is ruler). The Prince tells the Sugar Plum Fairy how he was saved by Clara Dom Mruse King and is transformed back into a Prince.

w.	•	•		

V	/h:	at	fami	lv o	f ins	trumen <sup>.</sup>	14 7	ปลง	J.	na a	t tŀ	ne v	/erv	heain	nina c	հք t	his	excer	nt?	
٧	v 1 10	,,	141111	ıy o		uanicii	LO I	la,	, ,	ıg u			v Cıy	Dogini	9 C	<i>,</i> ,	1110	CAUCI	ρι.	

#### Q. 12

What technique re to rusing to play in this manner?

#### Q. 13

What is the time ignature of this melody?

#### Q

What unusual instrument plays the melody?

#### Q. 15

What does this French word mean?\_\_\_\_\_

#### Q. 16

What orchestral family does it belong to?

## Q. 17

Describe the timbre of this instrument?\_\_\_\_\_