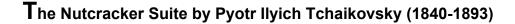
# **Listening Lesson 3**





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 or national treatment the ballet and created "The Nutcracker Suite" intended for concert performances

**Q. 1** The music you will be listening to is from the second act of the ballet. Summe be the story of the first act of the ballet here. (An **act** is a section of a large work).

It is Christmas at the Stahlbaum home. Many guests come to celebrate which family bringing gifts. Clara's Godfather is a toymaker and he brings a very pecial gift of a nutcracker for Clara. Her brother Fritz is jealous and he grabs for it and the stift posetting Clara. After the guests leave the children go to bed. Getting up during the light Clara gets her nutcracker from under the tree and falls asleep there. She then all missing for a utcracker (a prince now) and an evil Mouse King who attacks the Nutcracker Frinc and Clara saves him from the Mouse King by throwing her shoe at him. Then she and the Prince travel though the Enchanted Forest to the Kingdom of Sweets.

### "Dance of the Mirlitons"

In the ballet, this dance on any dances grouped together. It is played during a scene whe clara is being entertained at a sumptuous banquet.

The "Dance of the in "tons also called "Dance of the Reed Pipes" or "Dance the ined Futes") is a light, pastoral dance.



Q. 2	
What fam. ly r in truments is playing at the	very beginning of this excerpt? The string family
3 M/L teique are they using to play	very beginning of this excerpt? The string family in this manner? Pizzicato
Q. 4 What is the time signature? 4	Write this at the start of the rhythm in <b>Q. 10</b> .
Q. 5	
What instruments play the melody?	Flutes
Q. 6	
What orchestral family do they belong to?_	The woodwind family
Q. 7	
What other instruments are in this family?	Piccolo, oboe, bassoon and clarinet

Q. 8 Circle the words below that describe the rhythm of the melody.

Simple Complex Driving Repetitive Relaxed Energetic Clear Unclear

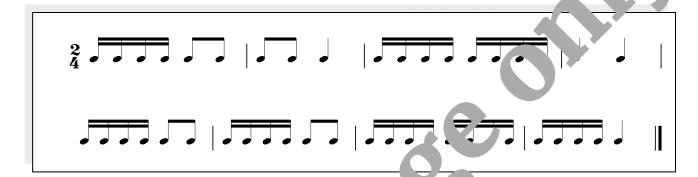
**Q. 9** Circle the words below that describe the tempo (speed) of this rhythm.

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 below.

Do not be confused by the glissandi, (very fast runs of notes), and grace notes, (shor qui not sefore a main note), that are in this melody for decoration and are not part of the main within.



## "Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy"

In the ballet, this music is played during a rene where Clara and the Prince have returned to the Land of Sweets (where the Prince is ru. The Prince tells the Sugar Plum Fairy how he was saved by Clara from ne rouse King and is transformed back into a Prince.

# Q. 11 What family of instruments is picting at the very beginning of this excerpt? The string family Q. 12 What technique are hev ing to lay in this manner? Pizzicato Q. 13 Rure of this melody? What is the Q 14 ar instrument plays the melody? Celeste or celesta Q. 15 What does this French word mean? Heavenly Q. 16 What orchestral family does it belong to? The percussion family Q. 17 Describe the timbre of this instrument? Shiny, sweet, bright, clear, resonant