



# Meet Tchaikovsky!

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky was a famous composer from Russia who lived from 1840 to 1893 during the Romantic Period of music. This was a time when composers wrote dramatic and emotional pieces that told beautiful stories.



Tchaikovsky created some of the most famous ballets, including *The Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake*, and *Sleeping Beauty*. He also wrote powerful symphonies and the beautiful *Romeo and Juliet Overture*, inspired by Shakespeare's famous love story. Another well-known piece is his *1812 Overture*, which features real cannon sounds! An overture is an orchestral piece played at the beginning of an opera or ballet to set the mood.

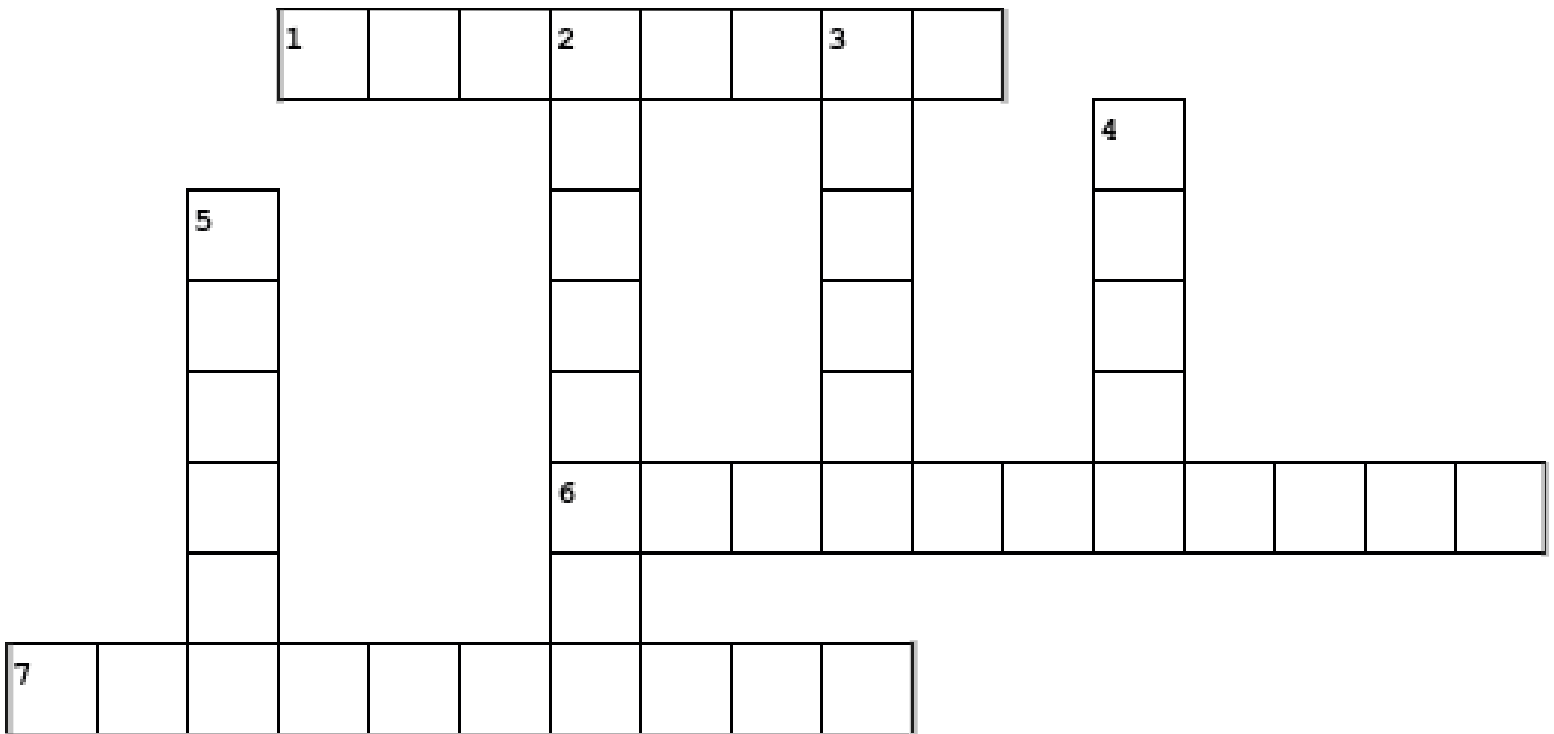


As a child, Tchaikovsky loved music and started playing the piano at age 5. His music is filled with deep emotions—sometimes joyful, sometimes sad—and continues to inspire and delight people all over the world.

Thanks to Tchaikovsky, we enjoy *The Nutcracker Ballet* every holiday season and feel the magic of his unforgettable melodies!



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### Across:

1. A musical introduction to an opera or ballet.
6. The composer of The Nutcracker.
7. A famous ballet composed by Tchaikovsky.

### Down:

2. The musical period Tchaikovsky belonged to.
3. Tchaikovsky's home country.
4. The instrument Tchaikovsky started learning as a child.
5. A type of dance.

