



**Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky**  
**1840-1893**

Tchaikovsky wrote many wonderful pieces. Some of his most popular are ***Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture*** written in 1869, the ***1812 Overture*** Op, 49 written in 1880 and ***The Nutcracker Op. 71*** finished in 1892.



***Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture*** was suggested by another famous Russian composer, Balakirev. He was a member of a group of composers called *The Russian Five* or *The Mighty Five*.

Tchaikovsky had written a piece that was not well liked and Balakirev wrote to him on how to improve the work. They became friends. Peter respected the elder composer and his ideas and used many of them in his work. He even dedicated it to the composer. It premiered in 1870 with another friend, Nikolai Rubinstein (Anton's brother) conducting. Due to some problems, this first writing didn't go as well as Peter had wished. Balakirev suggested some changes and with these, the piece was a success.

You may have heard this piece and never knew what it was. It is in the video game, ***The Sims***, and some more adult shows like ***Wayne's World*** and ***Ren & Stimpy***.