



## **The Nutcracker Ballet** by Peter Illyich Tchaikovsky

The music for the Nutcracker ballet was written by the Russian composer Peter Illyich Tchaikovsky. The story of the ballet was based on a book called The Nutcracker and the Mouse King by Mr. E. T. A. Hoffmann. The ballet was first performed in St. Petersburg, Russia on Sunday, December 18, 1892.

The Nutcracker ballet is performed in two acts. Act I tells the story of Marie and her brother Fritz who are waiting anxiously for their family's Christmas party to begin. It also tells of the battle of the nutcracker and the mouse king.

Act II tells the magical story of the Land of Sweets, and includes many beautiful dances, such as the Dance of Hot Chocolate, the Dance of Coffee, the Dance of tea, the Trepak or Russian Dance, and the Waltz of the Flowers.

Every year the Nutcracker ballet is performed all over the United States and throughout the world at Christmas time. It has been a favorite of both children and adults for over one hundred years.