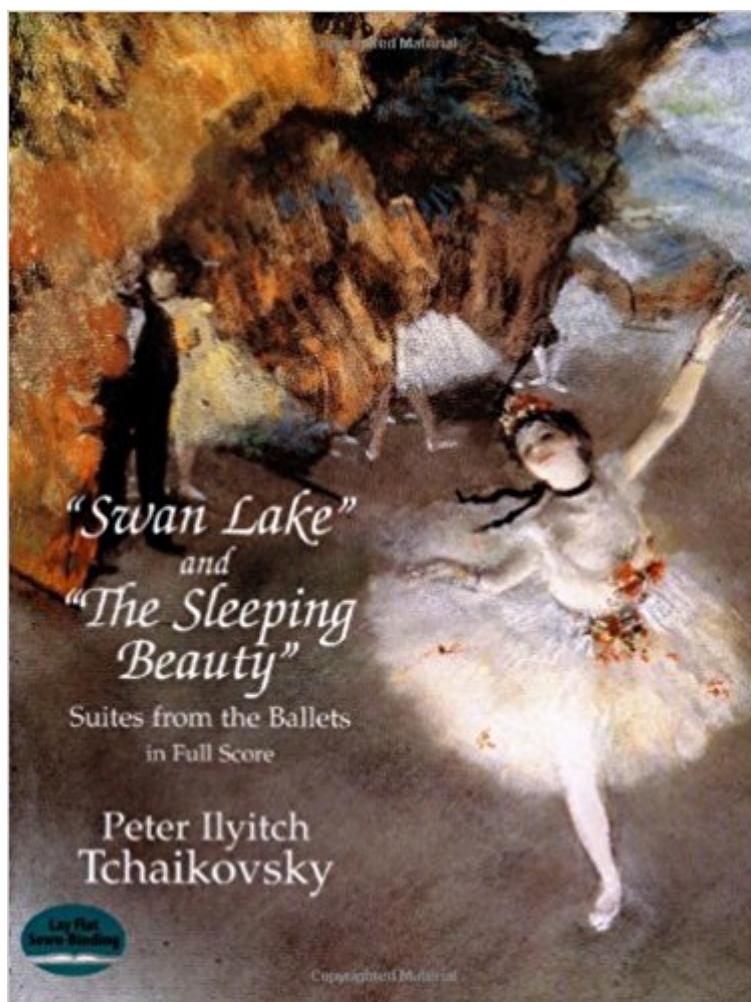


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"Swan Lake" And "The Sleeping Beauty": Suites From The Ballets In Full Score (Dover Music Scores)



Synopsis

His supreme gift of melody assures Tchaikovsky (1840–1893) of an enduring place in the hearts of performers and audiences worldwide. This quality, his delight in music for dance, and his masterly orchestration come together in the important works he composed for ballet. *Swan Lake* and *The Sleeping Beauty* spotlight Tchaikovsky at his very best. Staples of the repertoire in ballet companies after a century of constant productions, these works still thrill audiences with their sweeping romanticism, lush melodies, musical invention, and brilliant evocations of theatrical atmosphere. This volume contains the full orchestral suites from both ballets, reproduced in full score from authoritative editions. Now musicians and music lovers can study and enjoy these enchanting works in one handsome, high-quality edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Well, these Dover editions have always been a good choice for music teachers and composers who don't want to spend on an expensive book, but who would like to have these scores available for reference and orchestration technique analysis. The covers are always handsome, and the books will stay in good condition if treated with care. In my case, I was especially interested in how Tchaikovsky orchestrated the overture to the sleeping beauty, which has always seemed to me as an overture of surpassing dramatic power combined with a wonderful epic, fairy tale like atmosphere, foreshadowing scenes to come. I was surprised by some details I discovered when I

finally had the score in my hands, like the way Tchaikovsky added two cornets to the brass section, in addition to the usual two trumpets, and the spectacular crashing sound in the middle is not a gong (as I thought) but a "tam tam", played very loudly. That is the part where the evil fairy arrives into the castle, but Tchaikovsky put such a strength into this moment that it would be easy to picture mighty dragons descending into the hall, instead of just one evil witch (no matter how evil). These books contains some of the best moments of both ballets, so it is an excellent introduction into these work's orchestration. If I wanted a complete Tchaikovsky ballet, I would rather choose the nutcracker, and indeed I did (Dover has a complete print of this one). I don't care what anybody says on the subject, I'm convinced The Nutcracker is the best of the three. But there is no denying that Swan Lake and Sleeping Beauty have many great musical moments, impossible to ignore.

Dover Publications prints the clearest, easiest to read music scores available to the public. They can also be used by conductors at any level of performance and for study in music schools. This score is an excellent example.

As always, Tchaikovsky's finely crafted melodies flow from the page. The binding and print are easy to read and the paper is designed to last. Watching the notes dance across the page brings to mind the twirling ballerinas and wonderful stories that underlie these two masterpieces. The Only regret that you'll have regarding this issue is that there is not a complete score out for either of these two monuments of the ballet world.

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