

Objectives:

SWBAT identify typical characteristics (instruments and musical elements) of Russian folk music.
SWBAT describe how Russian influence is heard in Tchaikovsky’s music.

STANDARDS (MUSIC):

3.A.1.1 Music	ALL	1. Foundations	1. Use foundational knowledge and skills while responding to, creating, and presenting artistic work.
3.3.5.9.1 Music	Connect	9. Integrate knowledge and personal experiences while responding to, creating, and presenting artistic work.	1. Describe a memory, feeling, or story associated with music that is listened to or performed.
3.3.5.10.1 Music	Connect	10. Understand that artistic works influence and are influenced by personal, societal, cultural, and historical contexts, including the contributions of Minnesota American Indian tribes and communities.	1. Describe <i>cultural</i> uses of music from different time periods and places.

MATERIALS:

See the curated list of recordings for the MIS 2020-21 repertoire for multiple recordings.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

1. Listen to Tchaikovsky’s music in silence. ([orchestral](#) or [piano](#) version) Ask students “what is going on in the music?” – or “What do you hear in the music?” – encourage responses that name musical elements.

Think-Pair-Share – students discuss what they heard, then share with class.
Write student responses on the board.

2. Music as stimulus to for creative writing:

A radio commentator has said: “When listening to Russian music you get the feeling that the composer is telling you a story”. Listen to Tchaikovsky’s music again, focusing on a story told through the music. Imagine this music is the soundtrack to a film. What actions do you imagine on the screen? While the music is playing, have students write a story to fit Tchaikovsky’s music. Think-pair-share. Have students share their story with a partner. Selected students share their stories with the class.

3. Learn the melody of “Under the Green Apple Tree” on a neutral syllable.
 - Write lyrics with the class, in English, to fit the melody. Sing the “new” song.
 - Listen to Tchaikovsky’s music and identify where the folk melody is heard.
4. Russian Folk Music - Introduce the Balalaika – well-known Russian folk instrument. How is the balalaika similar to and different from the guitar?
Play a recording of a balalaika orchestra: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5PzWQjGgeO0>
What elements do you hear that you associate with a “Russian” sound?

Additional resources on Tchaikovsky’s life and music influences:

Biography of Tchaikovsky:

https://www.classicsforkids.com/composers/composer_profile.php?id=75

Brief biography at Kiddle Encyclopedia: https://kids.kiddle.co/Pyotr_Ilyich_Tchaikovsky

- This bio has many photos including a statue of Tchaikovsky.

Additional resources for folk music of RUSSIA:

For additional songs from Russia, see MamaLisa’s Musical World:

<https://www.mamalisa.com/?t=ec&c=157>

Balalaika orchestra plays Under the Apple Tree:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5PzWQjGgeO0>

Russian Folk Music – Making Music Magazine: <https://makingmusicmag.com/trio-veronezh/>

What makes Russian music “Russian”: (from MPR St. Paul Sunday)

https://saintpaulsunday.publicradio.org/features/0101_russianmusic/

General information about Russian Folk Songs:

“Russian people, indeed, sang their songs in all situations and at all times.” – Russians are known as a singing people.

http://www.vadimprokhorov.com/russian_folk_songs__musical_genres_and_history_25733.htm

Russian folksong Korobeiniki performed by Balalaika orchestra in Russian folk dress:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tUIIcoqM2UE>