



A Musical Journey



RUSSIA • UKRAINE

The Places

Our visit starts in St Petersburg, with its palaces and gardens and strange white nights by the River Neva. It continues with scenes of life in Moscow, Red Square, the Kremlin, monasteries and the Bolshoy Theatre. There is a final homage to the poet Pushkin, with portraits and memorabilia from Ukraine and from Russia.

1. **RUSSIA** St Petersburg: Smolensk Cemetery • Lomonosov Palace and Gardens • The Hermitage: Pavilion Hall • Smolny Convent
2. **RUSSIA** St Petersburg: White Nights by the River Neva
3. **RUSSIA** St Petersburg: Autumn in the Summer Gardens
4. **RUSSIA** Moscow: Donskoy Monastery • Arbat • Stalin Buildings
Tchaikovsky Concert Hall • Bolshoy Theatre • Hotel Metropole
Lomonosov Terrace • Red Square • Kremlin
5. **UKRAINE** Homage to Pushkin: The Crimea • Odessa • Art Museum
RUSSIA St Petersburg and Moscow

The Music

Tchaikovsky completed his *Fifth Symphony* in 1888, and regarded it with his usual critical diffidence. "Having played my symphony twice in St Petersburg and once in Prague, I have decided it is a failure. There is something repellent in it, some over-exaggerated colour, some insincerity of invention, which the public instinctively recognises", he wrote, in a letter to his patroness Nadezhda von Meck. It nevertheless achieved considerable success, eventually winning Tchaikovsky's own approval, and has remained a popular element in Russian symphonic repertoire ever since. His *Marche Slave* of 1876 reflects patriotic Russian feelings at a time of Balkan conflict with Turkey.



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