

It is astonishing to recall that five years after the première of *Swan Lake*, one of the greatest of all Russian ballets, and of Tchaikovsky's three full-length ballets the one with the greatest number of memorable tunes, the composer wrote to his editor: "To save this music from sinking into oblivion, I would like to make it into a concert suite modelled on Delibes... published both as a symphonic score and as a transcription for four hands." The original transcription by the pianist Eduard Langer is heard on this recording with piano duet versions of concert suites from *The Sleeping Beauty*, commissioned from Rachmaninov and Ziloti, though later corrected by the composer himself, and from *The Nutcracker*, transcribed by Stepan Esipoff.

Pyotr Il'yich
TCHAIKOVSKY
(1840-1893)

Ballet Suites (Transcriptions for Piano Four Hands)

The Sleeping Beauty (La belle au bois dormant), Op. 66a

(transcription by Sergey Rachmaninov,
revised by Ziloti and Tchaikovsky)

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|--|------|
| 1 No. 1 Introduction. La Fée des lilas | 4:43 |
| 2 No. 2 Adagio. Pas d'action | 5:30 |
| 3 No. 3 Pas de caractère. Le Chat botté
et la Chatte blanche | 2:11 |
| 4 No. 4 Panorama | 3:33 |
| 5 No. 5 Valse | 3:58 |

Swan Lake

(Le lac des cygnes), Op. 20a

(transcription by Edouard Langer)

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|----------------------|------|
| 6 No. 1 Scène | 2:48 |
| 7 No. 2 Valse | 6:25 |

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| 8 No. 3 Danses des cygnes | 1:36 |
| 9 No. 4 Scène | 5:17 |
| 10 No. 5 Danse hongroise. Czárdás | 2:14 |
| 11 No. 6 Scène | 4:23 |

The Nutcracker (La Casse-noisette), Op. 71a

(transcription by Stepan Esipoff)

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|--|------|
| 12 No. 1 Overture | 3:10 |
| 13 No. 2 Marche | 2:18 |
| 14 No. 3 Danse de la Fée-Dragee | 2:00 |
| 15 No. 4 Danse russe (Trepak) | 1:09 |
| 16 No. 5 Danse arabe | 2:58 |
| 17 No. 6 Danse chinoise | 1:04 |
| 18 No. 7 Danse des mirtilons | 2:16 |
| 19 No. 8 Valse des fleurs | 5:39 |

Aurora Duo

Julia Severus and Alina Luschtschizkaja, Piano

Recorded at the Piano School Berlin-Mitte, Germany, in January 2007

Producer: Julia Severus • Engineer and editor: Martin Kistner • Booklet notes: Julia Severus

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inspired by Tchaikovsky's ballet *Swan Lake*, (French School, 1924)

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Playing Time
63:12



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