

Pyotr Il'ich Tchaikovsky - his Life and Music

Spring Semester, 2024

DVD-based Lectures by Professor Robert Greenberg
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COURSE SYLLABUS

Tchaikovsky was the first Russian composer to attain enduring international fame. He composed some of the most popular concert and theatrical music in the current classical repertoire. His output include symphonies, concertos, operas, ballets, overtures, chamber music, and songs.

Tchaikovsky's personal life was a bewildering succession of tragedies, anxieties, failures, and successes. His greatest fear was that his homosexuality would become public knowledge. In nineteenth-century Russia this would have resulted him becoming a social pariah with a ruined career. It is hardly surprising that many authors have described him as neurotic.

Professor Robert Greenberg delineates the life and music of this beloved figure in a series of eight informative and entertaining lectures. Each 45-minute presentation will be followed by additional examples of Tchaikovsky's compositions. The other five weeks of the semester will be devoted to high-definition videos of his works performed by famous orchestras in various venues.

Week	Class Type+	Contents
1	Greenberg Lecture 1	Introduction & Early Life
2	Greenberg Lecture 2	A Career in Music
3	Music (HD video)	"Swan Lake" Ballet, Op. 20 - excerpts
4	Greenberg Lecture 3	The First Masterworks
5	Greenberg Lecture 4	Maturity
6	Music (HD videos)	Video(s) of Tchaikovsky's music [tba]
7	Greenberg Lecture 5	Three Women – Tatiana, Antonina, and Nadezhda
8	Greenberg Lecture 6	"My Great Friend"
9	Music (HD videos)	Video(s) of Tchaikovsky's music [tba]
10	Greenberg Lecture 7	"A Free Man"
11	Music (HD videos)	Video(s) of Tchaikovsky's music [tba]
12	Greenberg Lecture 8	The Last Years, or Don't Drink the Water
13	Music (HD videos)	Video(s) of Tchaikovsky's music [tba]

Abstract for catalog: ROBERT GREENBERG RETURNS! The life and music of the famous nineteenth-century Russian composer Pyotr Il'ich Tchaikovsky will be presented via 45-minute video presentations. The professor's informative and entertaining lectures will be supplemented with additional information and HD-videos of more of Tchaikovsky's music.