



**FULL ORCHESTRA CONCERT LEVEL**

# **NUTCRACKER BALLET, SET I**

**DANCE OF THE SUGAR PLUM FAIRY and WALTZ OF THE FLOWERS**

**PETER ILYICH TSCHAIKOWSKY**

Arranged by **MERLE J. ISAAC**

## **INSTRUMENTATION**

1 Conductor	1 B $\flat$ Tenor Saxophone (optional)	1 Timpani
1 1st C Flute	2 1st Horn in F	1 Percussion (optional)
1 2nd C Flute	2 2nd Horn in F	1 Piano (or Celesta)
2 Oboe	1 1st B $\flat$ Trumpet	8 1st Violin
1 1st B $\flat$ Clarinet	1 2nd B $\flat$ Trumpet	8 2nd Violin
1 2nd B $\flat$ Clarinet	1 1st Trombone	5 3rd Violin (Viola T.C.)
1 B $\flat$ Bass Clarinet	1 2nd Trombone	5 Viola
2 Bassoon	1 Tuba (optional)	5 Cello
1 E $\flat$ Alto Saxophone (optional)		5 Bass

## **PROGRAM NOTES**

*The Nutcracker* is based on a fairy tale in which a little girl dreams on Christmas night that her dolls and toys come to life and take part in joyous revelry. They are led by the Nutcracker, who is really a prince.

*The Nutcracker* shows Tchaikowsky in his most lighthearted mood.

### **First Set**

“Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy” is notable for its delicacy and transparency. The solo part, originally written for the celesta, is often played on the piano. “Waltz of the Flowers,” the most popular of all of the dances in the ballet, contains exquisite melodies, luxurious harmonies, and colorful instrumentation.

### **Second Set**

“March” opens with a miniature fanfare featuring the trumpets. It is a cheerful, jaunty little march—for toys rather than for soldiers. “Trepak,” or Russian dance, is lively, rhythmically exciting, and a bit noisy. Interesting are its unusual accents.