The Nutcracker

The Nutcracker tells the story of young **Clara Stahlbaum** who is given a wooden toy **nutcracker** by her uncle Drosselmeyer, a famous toymaker and inventor.

One night, the Nutcracker magically awakens and saves Clara from an **army of giant rats and mice** led by the evil **Mouse King**.

The magical nutcracker whisks Clara off to the **Land of Sweets** where Clara and the Nutcracker go on a series of adventures, meeting a host of other magical creatures and people on the way, including the **Sugarplum Fairy**.

What is Ballet?

Ballet is a way of telling stories. Instead of a singer singing, an author writing, or a cartoonist drawing, in ballet, the dancers tell the story.

Ballet is danced by both boys and girls, men and women and has been popular for hundreds of years.

Like all stories, some ballets are gentle and beautiful, whilst others can be terrifying!

Our Listening

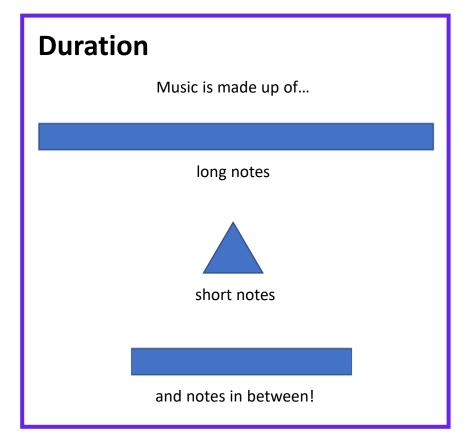| The Overture | The March of the Toy Soldiers | Dance of the Sugarplum Fairy | Trépak | Waltz of the Flowers |

Duration

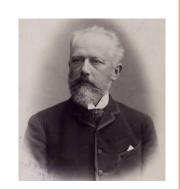Music is made up of...

long notes

short notes

and notes in between!

Tchaikovsky

The Nutcracker was composed by famous Russian composer Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (pronounced Chi-Kovv-Ski).

'The Nutcracker' contains some of Tchaikovsky's most famous music and was written hot off the heels of his highly successful ballets 'Swan Lake' and 'Sleeping Beauty'.

Rhythm

Rhythm is when long and short notes are joined together.

Graphic Scores

This is when music is written with pictures instead of musical notes.

Dynamics

'f' Loud

'p' Quiet