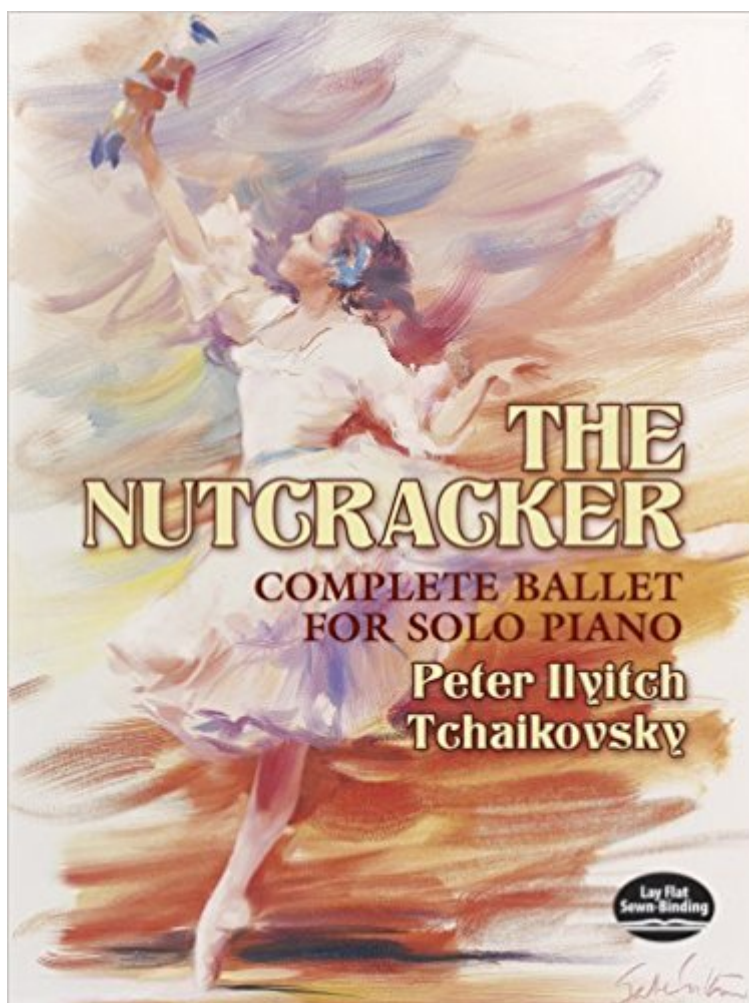


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The Nutcracker: Complete Ballet For Solo Piano (Dover Music For Piano)



Synopsis

This solo piano edition of Tchaikovsky's masterful Christmas ballet offers pianists a chance to enjoy favorites such as "The Dance of the Sugar-Plum Fairy" and "The Waltz of the Flowers." Entirely faithful to Tchaikovsky's brilliant orchestral score, this delightful arrangement by Sergey Taneyev and the composer himself renders the complete ballet in a style both idiomatic to the piano and specially designed to be relatively easy to play. Here are all the movements of the beloved Suite, along with the rest of this holiday favorite, in which a brave and loyal little girl's toy is transformed into a prince who accompanies her into a magical world. Suitable for performers, rehearsal pianists, and all admirers of Tchaikovsky's art, this inexpensive edition of a perennial favorite will enchant players and listeners alike.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In this Dover publication, I expected to find the same arrangements of the pieces from the Suite that I played when I was a kid, and that is indeed what I found. But this arrangement of the complete ballet - revised by Tchaikovsky himself - is not quite complete: the introduction to the second toy variation in Act I (usually the soldier doll) feels a few measures too short; there are definitely some measures missing from the end of the Snow Scene and from Mother Ginger. (Did Tchaikovsky sanction some cuts?) The entire arrangement, though, is quite adequate, as you get most of the main tunes in every scene; but the all-important trumpet and wind parts in the battle scene are

missing, and those are what you really hear in performance. (You do get the rumblings in the strings, but without the winds, this arrangement is impracticable for rehearsals.) The opening of Act II and the Adagio come closest to being real orchestral reductions, as they incorporate the harp arpeggios (which are curiously missing from the beginning of the Snow Scene). I suppose that pianistically you can't get all the Nutcracker details onto one keyboard, but compare this piano version to the original reduction for Swan Lake: it's not nearly as accurate. Advanced pianists may want to take a look at the full orchestral score (also available from Dover) to fill in a few musical blanks. Still, this solo piano version is quite serviceable, and if you've got Nutcracker firmly in your ears, taking a look at the notes on the page reveals a myriad of rhythmic surprises: what you hear is not necessarily what Tchaikovsky wrote. This reduction is a good start towards appreciating the genius and complexity of this justly beloved music. And just wait until you see the full orchestral score!

My daughter is the pianist. She enjoys the challenge.

Just got this a few days ago. I agree with the other viewers. This is a wonderful piano edition of the nutcracker. It is somewhat challenging but fun. It is amazing how Tchaikovsky preserves the richness of the music in converting it to piano. The reason I gave this only 4 stars was the binding. This should be spiral bound as there are 167 pages. I guess for the price, beggars can't be choosers

As advertised and on time.

I liked Children's gallop, Grand father's dance and scenes around them. Not too hard to play,

Loved this. I am a fan of the nutcracker, but of course am not one who can play all instruments. This allowed me to enjoy the music of Christmas, and it was gorgeous.

I bought this book about 2 weeks ago with some hesitation as to how hard/easy the level was. According to the reviews I had read, it was very advanced and not for the casual player. I must say that I disagree. True, to play any song you must know the notes, timings, and how to read the music. But beyond that, there is really no reason why the beginner can't play the songs in the book. I already have most of 'The March' memorized, and I've only had the book for 2 weeks. No teacher

help necessary! I quit lessons about four years ago after advancing only to level two. With perseverance and the basic knowledge of piano, these songs are very easy to play. The songs also sound exactly like the original music. I'd recommend it to anyone who asked!

Wonderful. Exactly what I was looking for. Not for beginners or intermediate pianists.

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