

Dear Pianists,

In this volume you will find a simple piano arrangement of one of the most famous ballets ever written, 'Swan Lake' by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840–1893). Besides this work, Tchaikovsky also wrote the music for 'The Nutcracker' and 'Sleeping Beauty', two other landmarks in the history of ballet.

The first performance of this ballet was not well received – due to insufficient preparation, technically inadequate performers and poor scenery and costumes – and the production was soon abandoned. Subsequent productions were not particularly successful either. Yet nowadays, after a number of

changes, Swan Lake has a secure place in the repertoire of every classical ballet company and remains a great favourite. The roles of Odette and Odile are usually played by the same dancer, who has to portray two completely different characters, one of them good, sensitive and kind, the other evil: this is one of the most demanding roles in any ballet.

But now step into the fairytale world of Swan Lake and follow the story through its music.

With best wishes,
Hans-Günter Heumann

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