

The background of the image is a page from a handwritten musical manuscript. It features multiple staves with musical notation, including notes, rests, and clefs, written in dark ink on aged, slightly yellowed paper. The handwriting is cursive and appears to be from the 18th or 19th century. The text is overlaid on this background.

# **Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky & George Frederick Handel**

May, 2018

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# Russia

- Population: 143,433,260 (2016)
- Capital: Moscow (pictured)
- Ethnicities: Russia has over 185 ethnicities
  - Most prevalent are Russian 77.7%, Tatar 3.7%, Ukrainian 1.4%, Bashkir 1.1%, Chuvash 1%, Chechen 1%. Other and unspecified 14.1%.
  - A huge country comes with a huge amount of diversity!
- Religion: Russia is a multi-faith nation
  - Orthodox Christianity is Russia's largest religion with 75% of the population belonging to the Orthodox Christian church
  - Next is Islam with 5% of the population, and then Catholicism, Protestantism, Judaism and Buddhism are 3% of the population.





# Russian Culture-1800s

- Russian culture is something of it's own, mixing both Eastern and Western ideas
  - Increase of education, secular education
- Golden age for russian literature and poetry
  - Russian drama school of Stanislavski and ballet was world famous
  - Slavic revival: dramatic art forms from architecture to music became popular
  - patronage for the arts
- Russians are social people who enjoy visiting each other
- Women were still submissive to their husbands,
  - Worked in art or literature a lot
- Moscow was soon considered to be the art center of Russia.



# Life

- Born in Russia in 1840
- considered the most famous composer in Russian history
- at age 5 he began taking piano lessons
- showed talent for music, parents wanted him to work civil services
  - mother died of cholera in 1854
    - went to school at a boarding school (Imperial School of Jurisprudence)
    - began taking music at age 21 at the Russian Musical Society
    - became one of the first composition students at St. Petersburg Conservatory
  - Moved to Moscow and became a professor at the Moscow Conservatory
  - his work was first publicly performed in 1865
  - completed his first ballet, the *Swan Lake*, in 1876
  - Throughout his life he struggled with homosexuality, unhappy marriages, societal pressures, attempted suicides, and fleeing the country
  - He passed away in 1893 to cholera, however historians believe it was suicide



Question:

Can anyone name any of Tchaikovsky's  
Compositions?

# Well-Known Works

- Sleeping Beauty

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hJkTvPXRztU>



- Swan Lake

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CShopT9QUzw&list=RDCShopT9QUzw>



- The Nutcracker

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M8J8urC8Jw>



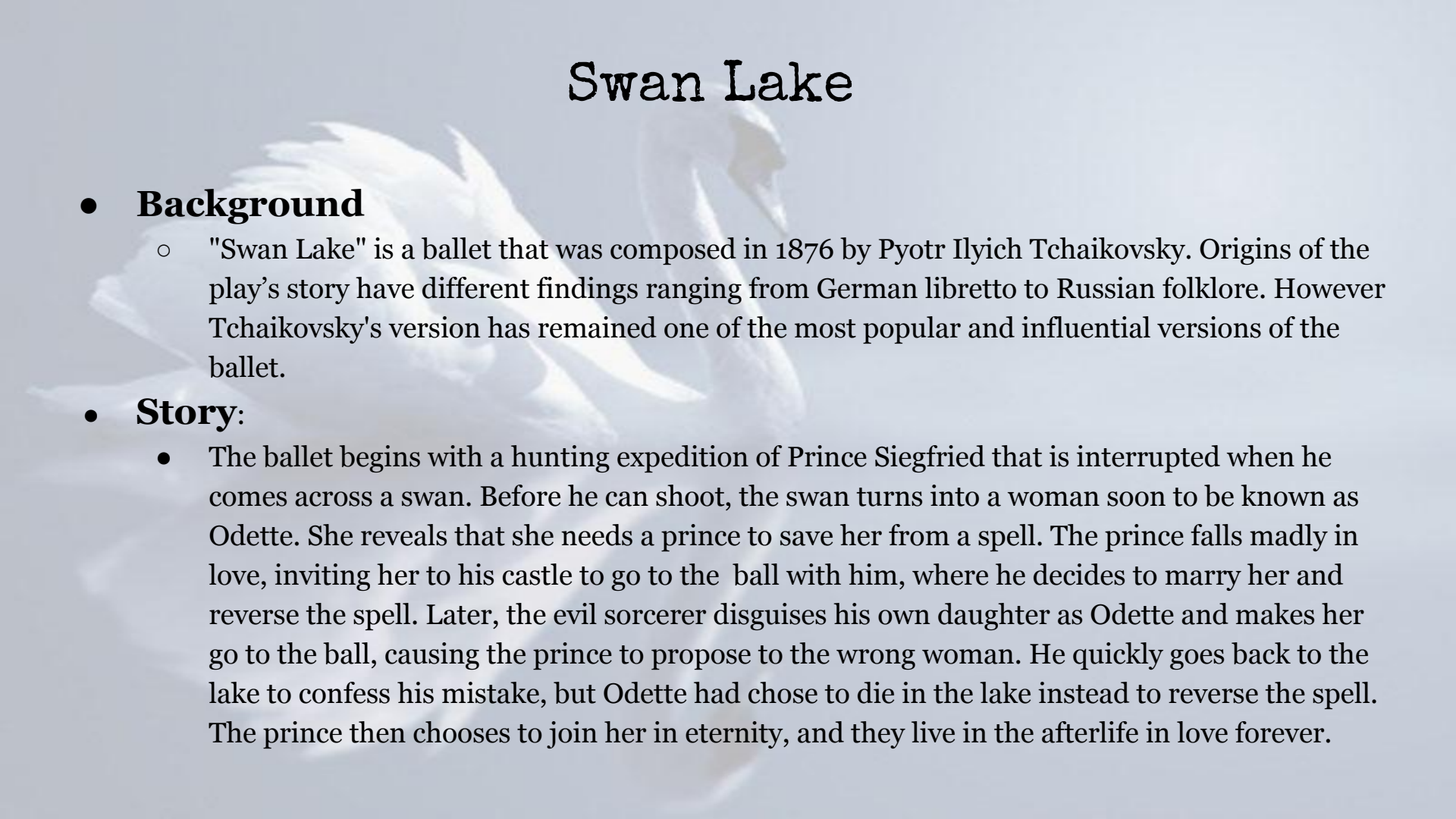
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LwYhW53RyhA>



- Tchaikovsky was a composer of the Late Romantic Period



# Swan Lake



- **Background**

- "Swan Lake" is a ballet that was composed in 1876 by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky. Origins of the play's story have different findings ranging from German libretto to Russian folklore. However Tchaikovsky's version has remained one of the most popular and influential versions of the ballet.

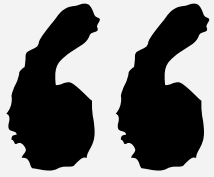
- **Story:**

- The ballet begins with a hunting expedition of Prince Siegfried that is interrupted when he comes across a swan. Before he can shoot, the swan turns into a woman soon to be known as Odette. She reveals that she needs a prince to save her from a spell. The prince falls madly in love, inviting her to his castle to go to the ball with him, where he decides to marry her and reverse the spell. Later, the evil sorcerer disguises his own daughter as Odette and makes her go to the ball, causing the prince to propose to the wrong woman. He quickly goes back to the lake to confess his mistake, but Odette had chose to die in the lake instead to reverse the spell. The prince then chooses to join her in eternity, and they live in the afterlife in love forever.

# Influences & Life Reflected Into His Work

- Prolific composer
- Lived a homosexual life, contributing to his sentimental and romantic works
- Mother died when he was only 14
  - Contributor to his “tragic life”
- Although he didn’t like them, he was drawn to deprived, suffering, or doomed women
  - this was reflected in a number of his compositions, for example: “The Swan Lake,” and “Sleeping Beauty.”
- In “Swan Lake” and others, the fate of the lovers is Tchaikovsky’s big focus, and he makes sure the listener knows that the ending of the story is a spiritual triumph for them.





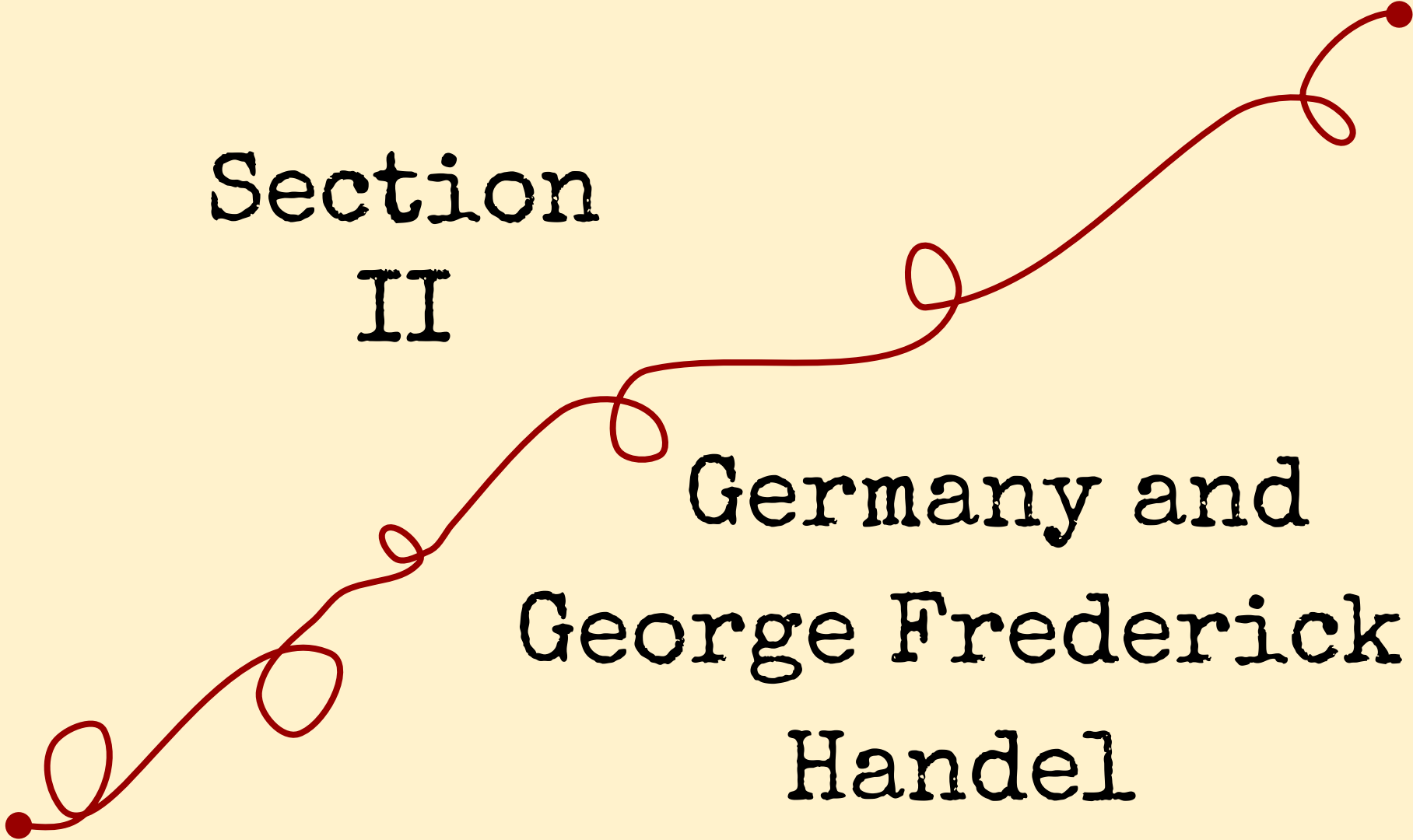
## Quote

“I have reached a very mature age without resting upon anything positive, without having calmed my restless spirit by either religion or philosophy. Undoubtedly I should have gone mad but for music. Music is indeed the most beautiful of all Heaven’s gifts to humanity wandering in the darkness. Alone it calms, enlightens our souls. It is not the straw to which the drowning man clings; but a true friend, refuge and comforter, for whose sake life is worth living. Perhaps there will be no music in Heaven. Well, let us give our mortal life to it as long as it lasts”

- Tchaikovsky



# Section II



Germany and  
George Frederick  
Handel

# Germany

- **Population:** 82,175,700 (2015)
- **Capital:** Berlin (pictured)
- **Ethnicities:** German 91.5%, Turkish 2.4%, Italian 0.7%, Greek 0.4%, Polish 0.4%, other 4.6%
- **Religions:** 65% - 70% of the population are of the Christian religion in Germany. They are split between the mainstream denominations of Lutheran-Protestantism and Calvinism united in the EKD (Evangelical Church in Germany) as well as the Roman Catholic Church.





# German Culture- 1600s & 1700s

- Enlightenment period transformed German culture in music, philosophy, science and literature.
- Germany is at the center of Europe in terms of politics and economics, and of course geography
- Emphasis on privacy and punctuality
- Much of the articulate architecture came from the Baroque period
- Germany is now home to some of the most famous earlier musicians such as Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Brahms, Handel, and more

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rc=1&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=3&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEFwjg7KKn9LOAhUjilQKHfFzDeIQtwlIMTAC&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DotOgwNa6hK4&usg=AFQjCNFMogUHMmOKY7SNoWxRsMo-5upmMA&sig2=YC3YqO4fNQTyuTBYVENr6w>



# George Frederick Handel

- 1685-1759 - Baroque composer, Germany
  - known to be very generous
  - composed Operas, Oratorios, and Instrumental
  - his father would not even permit him to own a musical instrument
- decided to commit himself to music around 18 years olds
  - played organ and harpsichord which began to earn him attention and gave him more opportunities to perform in operas.
- 1752- lost sight in both eyes, but his passion for music kept him going
- Passed in April 1759
  - Devoutly Lutheran



# Handel's Music

- **Germany, Baroque period**

- Handel wrote mostly operas, cantatas, and some instrumental music. Although he was around the same time as Bach, he was better well known in the general public during his time. Began composing operas and cantatas while in Italy.



- **Rinaldo: (Opera)**

- 18:53:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n7gRdfqOGPI>
- About: A story of love, war, and redemption, known as one of his best operas,
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AgDMxs4aHZU>  
[\(2:01\)](#)





# Handel's Famous Works

- ***Messiah:***
  - The Messiah first premiered during April of 1742.
  - Although it took quite a while for it to become popular, it was soon to be seen as a classic. Many historians note that Handel kept changing it and never seemed to be pleased with it.
- **Music:**
  - Begins with an orchestral introduction, introducing the major melodic ideas. A singer enters, more melodic lines as well as new text painting enters, concludes with orchestra repeating same material presented within the introduction to the Aria

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jCqOTpD9yto> (1:00:00)



# How the Two Compare

- **Secondary Link:** Structure of Music

-Handel was drawn to ancient history, mythology, and epic poems for the plots of his operas. Tchaikovsky was similar, being attracted to fantasy (like mythology), (during his time remember, there was a golden age for literature) and frivolous stage design, and it showed through their dramatic music as well.

-“Bold, Beautiful and Distinctive” are words used to describe both of their compositions. They both contained elaborate melodies with a dramatic introduction, middle, climax, and conclusion.





# How the Two Compare



- **Primary Link:** Their Lives: Similarities between their Lives

- Difficult early lives with no support from their families
- They both worked jobs their parents wanted before beginning on their music career
  - Their lives influenced their works. Handel's was full of traveling which influenced his with different religious aspects, and Tchaikovsky's was full of tragedy as seen in his works as well
  - During his time, Handel's operas were seen as going against God due to the fact they were meant to change the norms in thinking. Tchaikovsky's also was looked at in a negative way since it was too romantic after people knew he was homosexual.





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