



Jacques Offenbach

## Infernal Galop aka Can-Can (from *Orpheus in the Underworld*)

This was composed in 1858. It is a comedic opera, a parody of the earlier serious opera of Gluck, *Orpheus and Eurydice*. In the story an unhappily married couple, Orpheus and Eurydice, both fall in love with other people. Eurydice ends up in the underworld and Orpheus decides to go get her out. The only way he can bring her out is if he does not look back. But he is tricked in the end and fails.

This composer was a master of the comedic and often parodied other composer's works. Some of them appreciated it and others did not.

Other famous pieces by this composer include the *Doll Song* from the opera, *Tales of Hoffmann*, and *Le Sabre de Mon Père* from the opera *La Grande Duchesse de Gerolstein*.

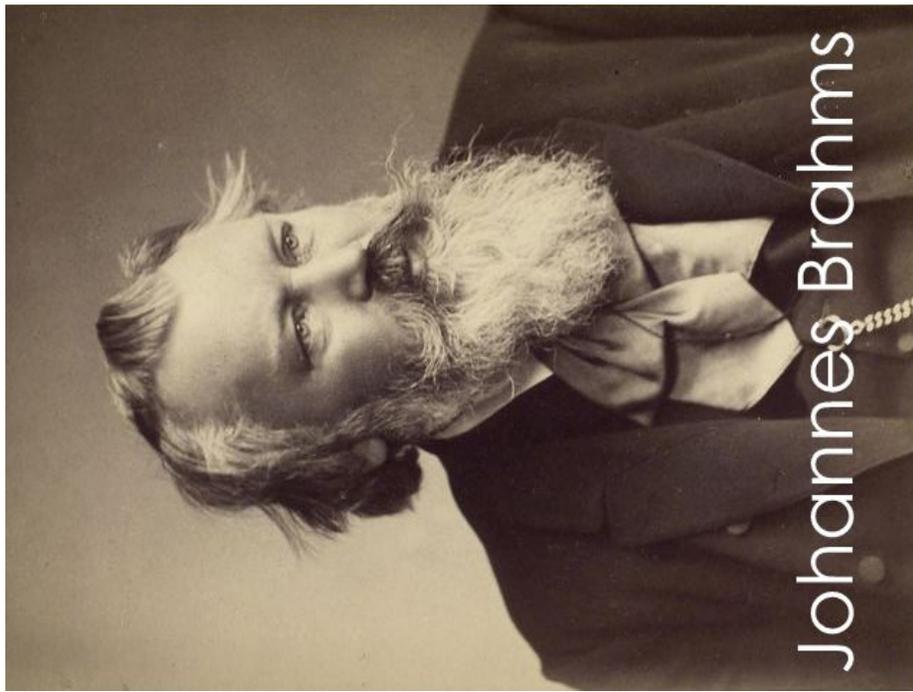


Johann Strauss II

## Blue Danube Waltz

This was composed in 1866. The composer is most famous for his waltzes, becoming known as the "Waltz King", though he wrote many other dance music pieces as well as operettas. This song is his most famous. It has become the unofficial anthem of Austria and especially the city of Vienna where it is performed every New Years Day.

Other famous works by this composer include *Tales from the Vienna Woods*, and the *Tritsch-Tratsch-Polka*.

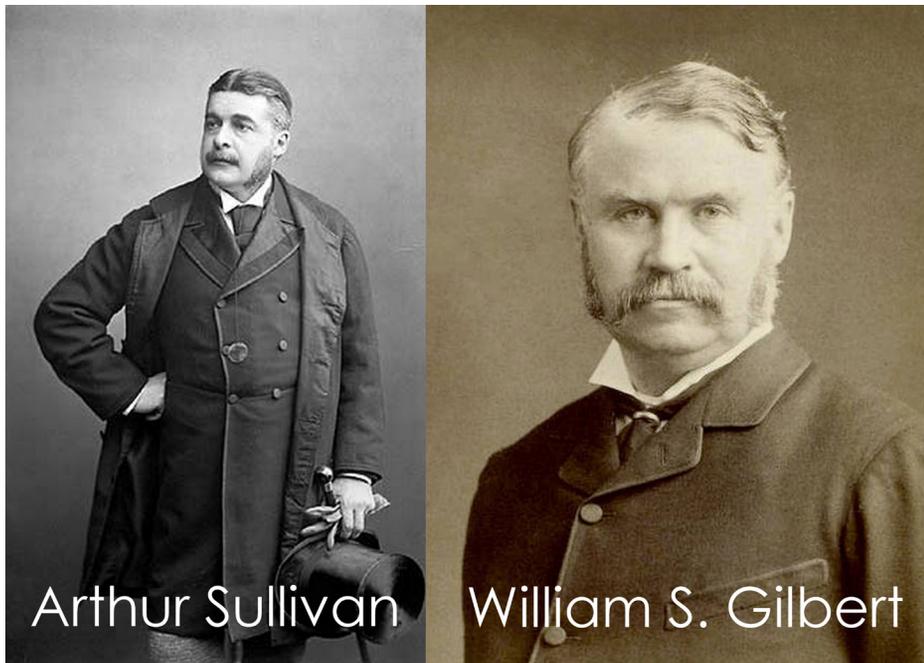


## Op. 49, No. 4 aka Lullaby

This was composed in 1868 in celebration of the birth of a friend's child. It is sung by parents all over the world to put their babies to sleep.

He was very influenced by early Romantic composers, especially the Schumann's and greatly revered classical composers such as Beethoven and Mozart. He earned the reputation of being a grump, but also purchased penny candy to put in his pocket and hand out to children during his long walks.

Other famous pieces by the composer include *Variations and Fugue on a Theme by Handel* and *Hungarian Dances*.



Arthur Sullivan

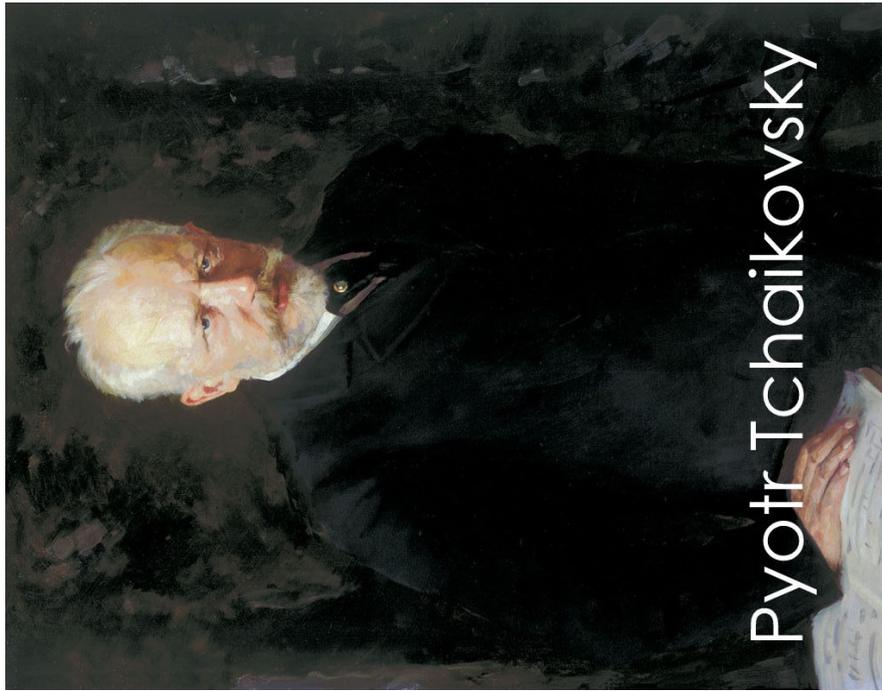
William S. Gilbert

## I Am The Very Model of a Modern Major General (from the Pirates of Penzance)

This was first performed in 1879 in New York and very well received by audiences. It is still frequently performed.

The composer and the librettist (writer of the words) partnered on fourteen comic operas between 1871 and 1896. All of their operas created absurd parodies on the real world of their day, poking fun at British society, government, the Navy, and so on.

Other famous operas by this duo include *H.M.S. Pinafore* and *The Mikado*.



## 1812 Overture

This piece, composed in 1880, commemorates Russia's valiant defense against Napoleon in 1812. The piece is known for the trumpet fanfare and sounds of cannon shot at the end (usually done by actual cannons during the piece) and is often played at fireworks shows.

This composer showed incredible range, composing everything from simple tunes inspired by Ukrainian folk music to complicated symphonies. He could write music in the style of Mozart and in the style of his own country. He is one of the most beloved and well-known of western composers.

Other famous pieces by this composer include the ballets *Swan Lake*, *The Nutcracker*, and *The Sleeping Beauty*.

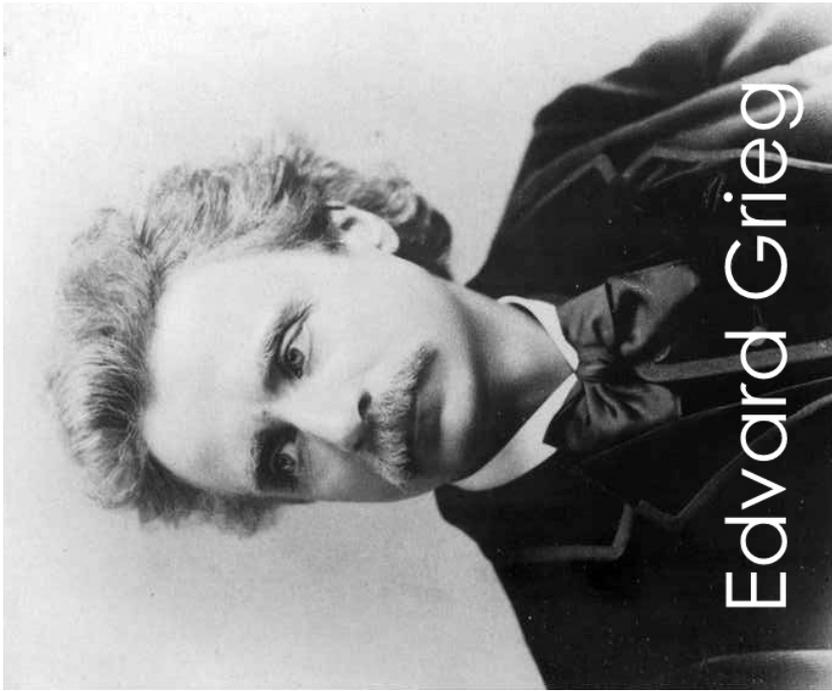


## New World Symphony

Composed in 1893 while the composer was working and living in America, this is one of the most famous symphonies in the world. It even traveled to space on the Apollo 11 mission to the moon. This symphony was inspired by sounds the composer heard in America, especially the songs of Native Americans and African Americans. When first performed in New York City it was an instant success and spread like wildfire across the world, making the composer's career.

The composer was from what is now the Czech Republic, but he became famous in America where he was made head of the National Conservatory of Music of America. After his fame grew he returned home, touring Europe.

Other famous pieces include *Slavonic Dances*.



## In the Hall of the Mountain King

This was written to accompany a play by Henrik Ibsen, *Peer Gynt*, performed first in 1876. The music is from the moment when the hero, Peer, has been captured by trolls and taken deep underground to their home under the mountain. The trolls are taunting him and so the music gets louder and faster as it progresses.

This composer wrote in the style of the folk songs from his native Norway, the first composer to create a national music for Norway. He is known and loved all over the world, but is a hero in his homeland.

Other famous pieces by this composer include *Morning Mood*, from the same play.



## Stars and Stripes Forever

This was published in 1897 and celebrates the ideals of liberty as embodied by the United States of America.

The composer was famous for his marches and was nicknamed the March King. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps as the leader of the band. Later during WWI he was commissioned as an officer in the Navy at the age of 62, once again asked to lead the band. Like other Romantic era composers his music was patriotic.

Other famous pieces by the composer include *Semper Fidelis* (the Marine Corps march), *The Liberty Bell*, *The Thunderer*, and *The Washington Post*.



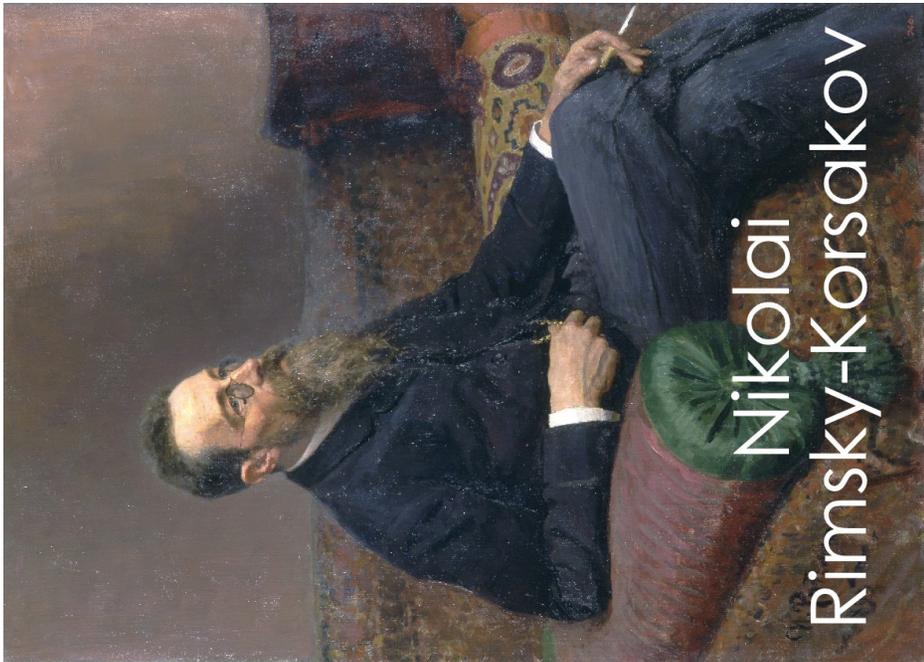
Giacomo Puccini

## Musetta's Waltz

This is from an opera called *La Boheme*, which premiered in 1896. Today it is the world's most popular opera. It tells the story of four young, poor artists in Paris. One of them, Rodolpho falls in love with a young and equally poor girl, Mimi. Mimi contracts tuberculosis and the poor Rodolpho cannot buy her any medicine. She dies tragically in his arms. The composer of this opera loved tragic endings.

This composer wrote in the Romantic style even though his long career extended into the modern period.

Other famous pieces by this composer include the operas *Madama Butterfly* and *Tosca*.



Nikolai  
Rimsky-Korsakov

## Flight of the Bumblebee

This was composed in 1899 and is part of the opera, *The Tsar of Saltan*. During this song the Tsar's son is magically changed into a bumblebee so he can fly to his father, who thinks he is dead.

The composer often wrote music based on folk songs and fairy tales. He was one of a group of famous Russian composers known as "The Five".

Other famous works include *Scheherezade*, *Capriccio Espagnol*, and the *Russian Easter Festival Overture*.

# Romantic Music Cards, Part 2

The late Romantic Period was a continuation of the emotionality and nationalism of the earlier Romantics. Many composers wrote patriotic pieces and used folk songs and tales of their countries as inspiration. The piano and the orchestra remained the most important instruments for musical performances and opera and program music (music that tells a story) were both important through the entire Romantic period. But late Romantics became more and more free with their musical expression. They began to use dissonant chords, unusual time structures, and orchestra's got bigger and bigger to accommodate more complex layers of music. Most of the music composed today in "Classical Style" is actually late Romantic.

Print these music cards and famous pieces by the composers onto white card stock. Cut the cards out on the solid lines.

Help your kids become familiar with these pieces and composers by playing matching games, sorting the cards, and quizzing over them.

1. Lay the cards face up in front of the students. Play one of the famous compositions for the students to listen to. The music can easily be found online and on Layers of Learning. Have the students match the composer and the composer's famous piece to the music that is playing.
2. After the student can identify the composer and piece, play another famous piece by the composer, listed at the bottom of the card, and see if the student can recognize the style of that composer and identify whose music is being played.
3. Put the cards in chronological order and listen to the featured music pieces to hear a progression of style over time. This is especially effective if you also include the music from the early Romantic Period, also available at Layers of Learning.