Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

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Born in Votkinsk, Russia in 1840

Died in Moscow, Russia in 1893

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Swan Lake

Sleeping Beauty

The Nutcracker

These are ballets ----------

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Tchaikovsky wrote The Nutcracker, not The Nutcracker Suite.

Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Marche Slav

Uses national anthem of imperial Russia

Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Notes: Mussorgsky and the other members of the Big Five invited Tchaikovsky to join their group promoting Russian music.

Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Notes: He refused, saying that he wanted to write music for the world, not just for the Russians. He did not want to be known as a "Russian" composer.

My question is -------

Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

If you write music that contains the Russian national anthem and write about a victorious time in Russian national history, is there any other country that the music could make people think about?????

Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

No matter now much Tchaikovsky protested about not wanting to be known as a Russian composer, his music is very definitely Nationalistic music about Russia.

Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

1812 Overture

This is NOT about the War OF 1812 that took place in the United States. This is about another war that took place IN 1812 between France and Russia.

Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

1812 Overture

In your notes write down three or four phrases to help you remember what happened.

Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

1812 Overture

In 1812 Napoleon decided to conquer Russia. The French army entered Russia with 442,000 men.

The French army could not carry enough food for the entire army with them so they planned to refill their food and water supplies with each town they conquered.

Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

1812 Overture

As the French army advanced, the Russian army retreated. The French army advanced and the Russian army retreated. The French saw this as a great victory until they realized that with each retreat, the Russians were burning the villages, killing the livestock and throwing the carcasses into the wells.

Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

1812 Overture

The result was no food for the army and polluted wells which gave them no clean water to drink. The men began to weaken and get sick but they continued to advance.

In September the army reached Moscow with 100,000 men (less than 1/4 the number they had begun the war with).

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1812 Overture

With great rejoicing the French army surrounded Moscow and declared themselves the victor in the war. The Russians, however, still had another plan up their sleeves. As the French cut off supplies from entering the city, the Russians began to systematically burn Moscow. This further diminished the source of supplies for the French army.

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1812 Overture

Finally as winter approached and the snow began to fall, the ill-equipped French army began their retreat. Having left home in the summer, the men had no boots or coats to protect them from the cold winter weather and many left bloody footprints in the snow on the trek back to France.

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When the war was over and the French army struggled out of Russia, only 10,000 men remained of the 442,000 who had left France.

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As the French left Moscow, the Russians celebrated by ringing all the church bells in the city and singing the Russian National hymn, thanking God for saving their country.

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The piece begins with the Russian people singing a prayer for peace in their land as the French army advances toward their country.

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Throughout the piece you will hear snatches of "La Marseillaise," the French national anthem. This is to indicate that the French are advancing.

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1812 Overture

You will also hear cannons throughout the piece as the war continues.

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1812 Overture

As you get near the end and the Russians know that victory is theirs, you will hear church bells ringing and the choir singing the National anthem of Imperial Russia.

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1812 Overture

Uses cannons, church bells and a choir

Uses French national anthem and Russian national anthem

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1812 Overture

Please listen well.