

## Listening Excerpt 2

### "Dance of the Mirlitons" from *The Nutcracker Suite* by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)

Based on one of the tales of Hoffman, the story of the Nutcracker and the Mouse King, Tchaikovsky's ballet tells the tale of a little girl, Clara, and her Christmas Eve adventures. This excerpt is from a scene where Clara is being entertained at a sumptuous banquet. The "Dance of the Mirlitons" (reed pipes) is a light, pastoral dance.

Listen to start of this song. You will hear the string section playing staccato notes on quavers.

What technique are they using to play in this manner? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the time signature? \_\_\_\_\_

What instruments play the melody? \_\_\_\_\_

What orchestral family do they belong to? \_\_\_\_\_

What other instruments are in this family? \_\_\_\_\_

Listen to the melody this time and notate the rhythm. The first bar is done for you below.

Do not be confused by the glissandi, (very fast runs of notes), and grace notes, (short, quick notes before a main note), that are in this melody for decoration and are not part of the main rhythm.

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Homework: Research, and summarise, the story of the Nutcracker Ballet.

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