

Piotr Tchaikovsky

## THE NUTCRACKER

Year of publication: 2021\*

Dimensions: 415×550 mm

Number of pages: 124

Edition: 30 numbered copies

and 5 more marked E.A. (*Epreuve d'Artiste*)

Artist:

Mikhail Chemyakin

A bibliophilic edition of the ballet *The Nutcracker*, timed to mark the 20th anniversary of the legendary production of the ballet by the artist Mikhail Chemyakin. The book contains unique artistic-historical materials — a facsimile of a handwritten score of the ballet made by Tchaikovsky himself accompanied by sketches produced by the artist for the set-design of the production.



\* Date when the first copy was produced

Piotr Tchaikovsky

## THE NUTCRACKER

### BINDING

The book is bound in the finest light grey silk. The design is based on Mikhail Chemiakin's drawings depicting the chief protagonists of the tale. The colourful costumes of the Nutcracker, Clara/Marie and the amusing rats acquire visual volume thanks to the use of an exquisite technique combining gold thread and hand-made satin-stitch embroidery.

The endpapers are made from an Italian silk moiré and the book is kept in a case that is also finished with silk.



**The Rare Books from Saint Petersburg Publishing House**  
phone: +7 921 963 35 40 | e-mail: [rarebook@yandex.ru](mailto:rarebook@yandex.ru)  
[www.rarebook-spb.ru](http://www.rarebook-spb.ru)

Piotr Tchaikovsky

# THE NUTCRACKER

## TEXT

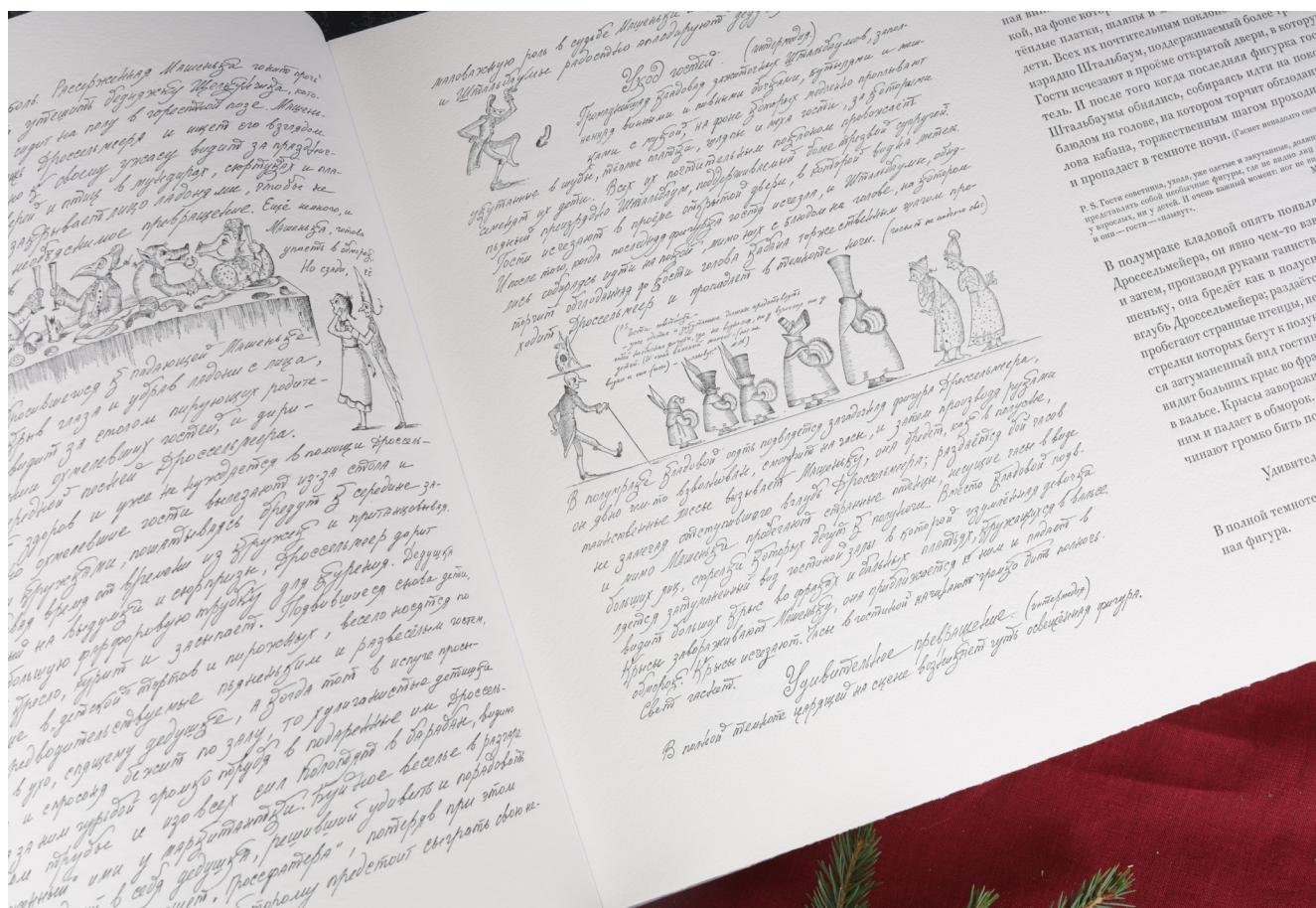
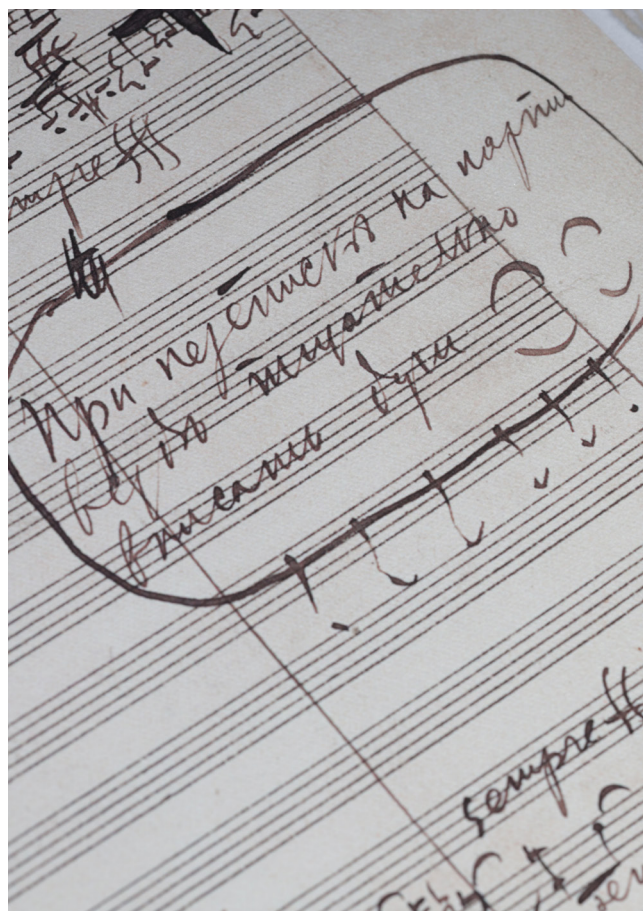
The book contains 49 pages carrying a facsimile reproduction of a handwritten score for the ballet *The Nutcracker* made by Tchaikovsky himself.

When starting work on the new production of the ballet, Chemiakin first of all rewrote the libretto, going back to the primary source — Hoffmann's story *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King*, because Petipa in his time, when constructing the plot of the future ballet, took as his basis not the original work, but the French translation made by Alexandre Dumas-père.

In the present publication, the libretto is a striking supplement to the illustrative material. It is reproduced in two forms: Chemiakin's handwritten version and in type, repeating the text for ease of reading. The book contains 12 pages printed each side with text on a 19th-century German-made Dingler hand press.

Paper: Vélín d'Arches Rives (France), 280 g/m<sup>2</sup>, handmade; Fabriano (Italy), 280 g/m<sup>2</sup>, handmade; Somerset (England), 280 g/m<sup>2</sup>, handmade

Language: Russian



The Rare Books from Saint Petersburg Publishing House  
phone: +7 921 963 35 40 | e-mail: rarebook@yandex.ru  
www.rarebook-sp.ru

Piotr Tchaikovsky

## THE NUTCRACKER

### ILLUSTRATIONS

The book contains 16 illustrations made in the etching technique and hand-tinted with watercolour by the artist.

In the designs that Mikhail Chemiakin produced for the ballet one can sense a style closely akin to Hoffmann the artist, who from an early age dreamed of a career as a professional draughtsman, but his grotesque style proved too unorthodox and ahead of his own time's understanding of graphic art. Chemiakin also strives to convey not so much the literary as the metaphysical presence of the author on the stage. He creates two worlds that exist in parallel — the world of people and the world of rats, a fully-fledged rodent society with a royal family, a rat aristocracy, a military and the common folk.

Mikhail Chemiakin's production of the ballet had its premiere in the Mariinsky Theatre on 12 February 2001. Ten years later, in 2011, the *Rare Books from Saint Petersburg* publishing house began work on the book *Piotr Tchaikovsky. The Nutcracker*. The first copy was completed in 2021, a round anniversary year for both the legendary production and the book project itself.



**The Rare Books from Saint Petersburg Publishing House**  
phone: +7 921 963 35 40 | e-mail: rarebook@yandex.ru  
www.rarebook-spb.ru

Piotr Tchaikovsky

## THE NUTCRACKER

*Participants in the work on this publication:*

Creator of the illustrations, the handwritten libretto and the designs for the embroidery on the cover — *Mikhail Chemiakin*  
Musical consultant — *Sergei Stadler*  
Design of the cover — *Mikhail Chemiakin, Piotr Suspitsyn*  
Layout — *Yevgeny Grigoryev*  
Printing of the etchings — *Fanny Boucher (France)*  
Printing of the score — *Andrei Kuznetsov*  
Printing of the libretto — *Ruslan Knyazev*  
Satin-stitch embroidery — *Maria Rudkovskaya*  
Binding work — *Andrei Degtev, Andrei Kulikov*  
Proof-reading — *Natalia Nesterova*  
Project curator — *Alexander Borodin*

Each copy is numbered and signed by the publisher and the artist. Copy №1 is in the collection of the State Hermitage.



The Rare Books from Saint Petersburg Publishing House  
phone: +7 921 963 35 40 | e-mail: rarebook@yandex.ru  
www.rarebook-sp.ru