



HEY KIDS, MEET  
**TCHAIKOVSKY**

Piotr (or Peter, as we would say in English) Ilyich Tchaikovsky \_\_\_\_\_ (be) born in Votkinsk, a town in Russia's Ural Mountains. When he \_\_\_\_\_ (be) 8 years old, his family \_\_\_\_\_ (move) to the capital city of St. Petersburg. Even though Tchaikovsky \_\_\_\_\_ (be) a good musician as a kid, that \_\_\_\_\_ (not be) considered an "acceptable" profession, so his parents \_\_\_\_\_ (make)

him \_\_\_\_\_ study \_\_\_\_\_ law \_\_\_\_\_ instead. But even in law school, Tchaikovsky \_\_\_\_\_ (continue) to study music. Eventually, he \_\_\_\_\_ (give) up his legal job and \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to the St. Petersburg Conservatory. After he \_\_\_\_\_ (graduate), he \_\_\_\_\_ (move) to Moscow to \_\_\_\_\_ (teach) at the new conservatory there. It's now named for \_\_\_\_\_ him.

For years, Tchaikovsky \_\_\_\_\_ (have) a patroness named Nadezhda von Meck -- a wealthy widow who \_\_\_\_\_ (be) a big fan of Tchaikovsky's music. She regularly sent him money so that he could concentrate on composing without having to worry about making a living. But Nadezhda von Meck \_\_\_\_\_ (not want) to meet Tchaikovsky. For 14 years, they only communicated by writing letters to each other. Tchaikovsky \_\_\_\_\_ (dedicate) his Fourth \_\_\_\_\_ Symphony \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_ patroness.

Tchaikovsky \_\_\_\_\_ (travel) all over Europe for performances of his music. In 1891, he even \_\_\_\_\_ (come) to America for the opening of Carnegie Hall, where he was invited to conduct his music.