



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.