

# 1812 Festival Overture, Op. 49

Peter Tschaikovsky

Arr. by Michael Pratt for Brass & Organ

**Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky** (1840 – 1893) was a Russian composer of the Romantic era. His wide ranging output includes symphonies, operas, ballets, instrumental and chamber music and songs. He wrote some of the most popular concert and theatrical music in the classical repertoire, including the ballets Swan Lake, The Sleeping Beauty and The Nutcracker, the 1812 Overture, his First Piano Concerto, his last three numbered symphonies, and the opera Eugene Onegin.

**"1812" Overture** is an overture written in 1880 to commemorate Russia's defense of Moscow against Napoleon's advancing Grande Armée at the Battle of Borodino in 1812. The overture debuted in the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour in Moscow on August 20, 1882. The overture is best known for its climactic volley of cannon fire and ringing chimes.

**Dr. Michael Pratt** has degrees in music education and music composition from The University of Toledo, The University of Michigan, and Boston University. He studied composition with Pulitzer Prize winning composers Ross Lee Finney and Leslie Bassett at The University of Michigan, and taught music in the public schools for many years in Michigan.

He has sung with The Toledo Choral Society, Toledo Symphony Chorale, Opera!Lenawee, and The University Musical Society Choral Union of The University of Michigan with whom he has performed with The Detroit Symphony Orchestra, The San Francisco Symphony, The Kirov Orchestra, The Russian National Orchestra, The Ann Arbor Symphony, The Lansing Symphony, The Grand Rapids Symphony, The Toledo Symphony, The Birmingham Symphony, The Gabrieli Consort, and The Tallis Scholars.

He has played tuba with The Toledo Symphony, Toledo Concert Band, Toledo Opera, University of Toledo Faculty Brass Quintet, Adrian Chamber Brass, Adrian College Faculty Brass Quintet, The Crosswell Opera House, The Adrian Symphony Orchestra and The Adrian City Band.

He has performed with many notable conductors, including, Valery Gergiev, Michael Tilson Thomas, Neeme Jarve, Mikhail Pletnev, Rafael Fruhbeck de Burgos, Leonard Slatkin, John Adams, Gennady Rozhdestvensky, Paul McCreech, Peter Phillips, Catherine Comet, Eric Kunzel, Margaret Hillis, Martin Katz, and John Finley Williamson.

Michael Pratt is a member of ASCAP.

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Duration 8:20

Largo  $\text{♩} = 60$

The musical score is arranged in a system with the following parts from top to bottom:

- Trumpet in B $\flat$  1
- Trumpet in B $\flat$  2
- Trumpet in B $\flat$  3
- Horn in F
- Trombone
- Euphonium
- Tuba
- Organ (Grand Staff)

The score is in 3/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B $\flat$  major/D $\flat$  minor). The tempo is marked "Largo" with a quarter note equal to 60 beats per minute. The dynamic marking is *mf* (mezzo-forte). The score is divided into six measures, with measure numbers 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 indicated above the staff. The organ part is shown as a grand staff with a treble and bass clef, containing rests in all measures.