



Nutcracker March

Easy Piano Sheet Music

P. I. Tchaikovsky (1892)

Level 3 | Full score, fingering, practice tips

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Nutcracker March

Key	Time Signature	Tempo	Difficulty	Measures
G major	4/4	Marcia, 100 BPM	Beginner - Level 3	16

About This Piece

The March is No. 2 of the Suite from The Nutcracker, Op. 71a, by P. I. Tchaikovsky (d. 1893), published in Moscow by Jurgenson in 1892. It has no words. We read it from Tchaikovsky's own piano solo arrangement of the Suite, in the Rahter reprint of 1898, and checked it against the full score and a piano solo by A. Strelezki (d. 1906), printed by Augener under the name Esipoff. Measures 1-15 are the source's first 15 bars and measure 16 is its final bar, 88. We kept only the top voice, in the source key of G major, and left out the fast flourish and high D6 of bar 8. Tchaikovsky marks 144 to the quarter; our practice tempo is 100.

Notes and Hand Positions

Fingering Guide

Right Hand: D4, D#4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F#5, G5

Fanfare position for measures 1-4 and 9-12: thumb (1) on D5, index (2) on E5 and middle (3) on F#5, with the repeated triplet D5 taken 3-2-1. In the string answer the hand moves during each sixteenth rest: measure 5 starts with the pinky (5) on C5 and D5 and comes down to the thumb on D4, the thumb takes E4 and D#4 in measures 6-7, and in measure 8 it lands on G4 so the pinky can reach the forte D5. Measure 14 puts the thumb on G4 and B4, measure 15 uses no thumb at all, and the last bar ends with the pinky on G5 and the thumb on G4.

Left Hand: G2, A2, B2, C3, D3 (single notes, staccato)

One position, G2-D3: pinky (5) on G2, ring (4) on A2, middle (3) on B2, index (2) on C3, thumb (1) on D3. Short quarters on beats 1 and 3, most bars G2 with D3 or C3. Measure 7: B2 then G2; measure 15: C3 then D3. Last bar: G2, A2-D3 in eighths, G2, G2.

Notes Used in This Piece

Right Hand

Note	On the Staff	On the Keyboard	Finger
D4	Space below treble staff	Between the two black keys	Thumb (1)
D#4	Space below treble (sharp)	Second of the two black keys	Thumb (1)
E4	Bottom line of treble staff	Right of the two black keys	Thumb (1)
F#4	First space, treble (sharp)	First of the three black keys	Index (2)
G4	Second line of treble staff	Between first two of 3 black keys	Middle (3)
A4	Second space of treble staff	Between last two of 3 black keys	Index (2)
B4	Middle line of treble staff	Right of the three black keys	Ring (4)
C5	Third space of treble staff	One octave above middle C	Pinky (5)
D5	Fourth line of treble staff	Between the two black keys	Thumb (1)
E5	Fourth space of treble staff	Right of the two black keys	Index (2)
F#5	Top line of treble staff (sharp)	First of the three black keys	Middle (3)
G5	Space just above treble staff	Between first two of 3 black keys	Pinky (5)

Left Hand

Note	On the Staff	On the Keyboard	Finger
G2	Bottom line of bass staff	Between first two of 3 black keys	Pinky (5)
A2	First space of bass staff	Between last two of 3 black keys	Ring (4)
B2	Second line of bass staff	Right of the three black keys	Middle (3)
C3	Second space of bass staff	One octave below middle C	Index (2)
D3	Third line of bass staff	Between the two black keys	Thumb (1)

Section A - Fanfare and String Answer (Measures 1-8)

The fanfare, measures 1-4, at *p*: short D5s with a quick triplet, E5 and F#5, and a held E5 in measure 2. The E4 at the end of measure 4 starts the string answer, eighth notes with sixteenth rests that step down to D4 and come back up to a forte D5 in measure 8.

Tempo di marcia (♩ = 100)



Nutcracker March - Section A - Fanfare and String Answer

How to Practice This Section

Play measures 5-8 right hand alone at x0.5. Treat each sixteenth rest as the moment to move the hand, so the next note is already under its finger.

Section B - Fanfare Again and Ending (Measures 9-16)

The fanfare returns at *p* in measures 9-12, with a crescendo from the E4 in measure 12. The answer now climbs: measure 14 starts on D5, measure 15 rises through E5 and F#5, and measure 16, Tchaikovsky's own final bar, ends *f* on G5 and a short G4.

Tempo di marcia (♩ = 100)



Nutcracker March - Section B - Fanfare Again and Ending

How to Practice This Section

Loop measures 15-16 at x0.75. Measure 15 uses no thumb, so keep the hand high on fingers 2-3-4 and bring the thumb down only for the last G4.

Full Score

Here is the complete piece with all sections combined.

Tempo di marcia (♩ = 100)



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Step-by-Step Practice Guide

Step 1: Right Hand Alone

1. Measure 1: D5 on the thumb, then the triplet D5-D5-D5 with 3-2-1, quick and light
2. Measures 2 and 4: F#5 on 3, D5 on 1, E5 on 2 (long in measure 2, short in measure 4)
3. Measures 5-7: move in each sixteenth rest; the thumb lands on D4, E4 and D#4
4. Measures 13-16: thumb on A4, then G4 and B4, then up to the pinky on G5

Step 2: Left Hand Alone

1. Pinky on G2, thumb on D3: keep this five-note position all the way through



2. Play each note short, on beats 1 and 3 only, and count the rests
3. Measure 7: B2 on 3, then G2 on 5; measure 15: C3 on 2, then D3 on 1
4. Measure 16: G2, two eighths A2-D3 (4-1), then G2 twice with the pinky

Step 3: Hands Together

1. Start at x0.5 (50 to the quarter) and count 1-e-and-a out loud
2. Measures 1-4: the left hand plays with the right-hand notes on beats 1 and 3
3. Measures 5-8: hands separately first, then together one bar at a time, keeping every rest
4. Target 100 to the quarter: p fanfare, f in measures 8 and 16, crescendo from measure 12



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