Waltz of the Flowers

Easy Piano Sheet Music

P. I. Tchaikovsky (1892)

Level 3 | Full score, fingering, practice tips

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Waltz of the Flowers

Key	Time Signature	Tempo	Difficulty	Measures
D major	3/4	Valse, 132 BPM	Beginner - Level 3	33

About This Piece

The Waltz of the Flowers is No. 8 of the Suite from The Nutcracker, Op. 71a, by P. I. Tchaikovsky (d. 1893), published by Jurgenson in Moscow in 1892. It has no words. We read it from Tchaikovsky's own piano solo arrangement (Rahter reprint, 1898) and checked it against the full score. Measures 1-16 are the horn waltz (source bars 38-53) and measures 17-32 the violin tune (bars 70-85), in D major. The introduction and harp cadenza are left out, the flute fill-ins sit an octave lower, and the closing bar is ours.

Notes and Hand Positions

> **Fingering Guide**
>
> Right Hand: A3, Bb3, B3, C4, C#4, D4, D#4, Eb4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, A#4, B4, C#5, D5, D#5, E5, F#5, G5, A5
> Thumb (1) on A3, 2 on D4, 3 on F#4, 4 on G4, pinky (5) on A4 (m7). Measures 8-16: the thumb lands on white keys; m16 goes 3-1-3-1-3. Section B: pinky on the half notes, thumb on the quarters, triplets 3-4-3; D#5 and E5 on 2 (m30-31); last F#5 on 3.
>
> Left Hand: G2, A2, A#2, Bb2, B2, C3, C#3, D3, D#3, E3, G3, A3, B3 (single notes)
> D3 on 1 (m1-8), then C#3 (2), C3 (3), B2 (4), G2 (5), E3 (1), B2 (3), Bb2 (4), A2 (5). Section B: pinky on beat 1, thumb on the half note; 5-3 in m21, 4-1 in m30 and m32; last D3 on 3.

Notes Used in This Piece

Right Hand

Note	On the Staff	On the Keyboard	Finger
A3	2nd ledger line below treble	Between last two of 3 black keys	Thumb (1)
Bb3	Below ledger line, treble (flat)	Last of the three black keys	Middle (3)
B3	Below ledger line, treble	White key just left of middle C	Index (2)
C4	Ledger line below treble (natural)	Middle C	Thumb (1)
C#4	Ledger line below treble (sharp)	Black key right of middle C	Middle (3)

Right Hand (continued)

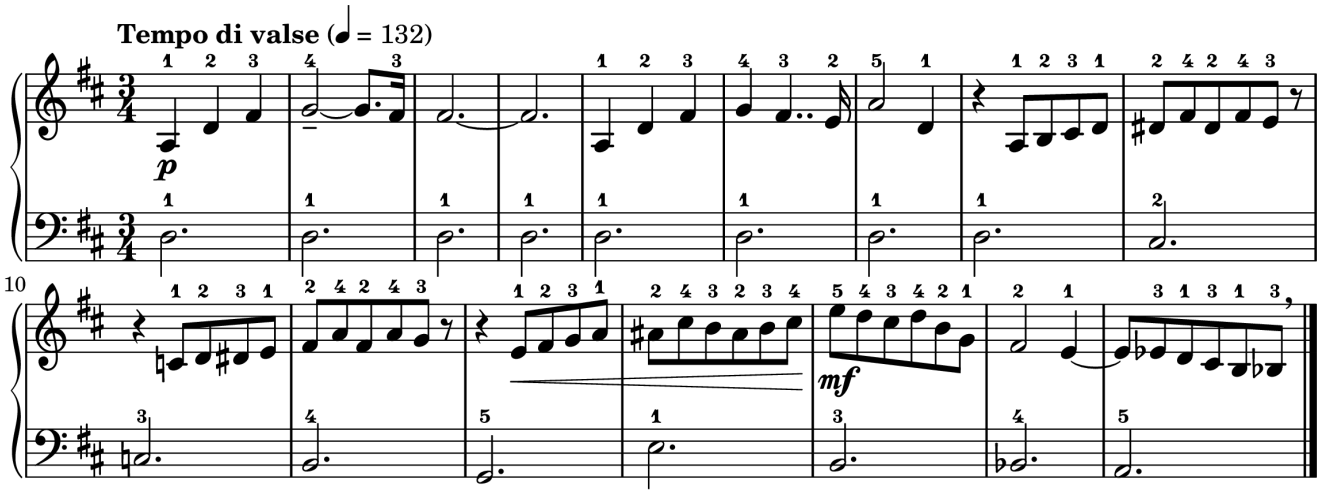
Note	On the Staff	On the Keyboard	Finger
D4	Space below treble staff	Between the two black keys	Index (2)
D#4	Space below treble (sharp)	Second of the two black keys	Index (2)
Eb4	Bottom line, treble (flat)	Second of the two black keys	Middle (3)
E4	Bottom line of treble staff	Right of the two black keys	Thumb (1)
F#4	First space, treble (sharp)	First of the three black keys	Middle (3)
G4	Second line of treble staff	Between first two of 3 black keys	Thumb (1)
A4	Second space of treble staff	Between last two of 3 black keys	Thumb (1)
A#4	Second space, treble (sharp)	Last of the three black keys	Index (2)
B4	Middle line of treble staff	Right of the three black keys	Index (2)
C#5	Third space, treble (sharp)	First of the two black keys	Middle (3)
D5	Fourth line of treble staff	Between the two black keys	Ring (4)
D#5	Fourth line, treble (sharp)	Second of the two black keys	Index (2)
E5	Fourth space of treble staff	Right of the two black keys	Pinky (5)
F#5	Top line of treble staff (sharp)	First of the three black keys	Pinky (5)
G5	Space just above treble staff	Between first two of 3 black keys	Pinky (5)
A5	1st ledger line above treble	Between last 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	Pinky (5)
A#2	First space, bass (sharp)	Last of the three black keys	Pinky (5)
Bb2	Second line, bass (flat)	Last of the three black keys	Ring (4)
B2	Second line of bass staff	Right of the three black keys	Ring (4)
C3	Second space, bass (natural)	One octave below middle C	Middle (3)
C#3	Second space, bass (sharp)	First of the two black keys	Index (2)
D3	Third line of bass staff	Between the two black keys	Thumb (1)
D#3	Third line, bass (sharp)	Second of the two black keys	Thumb (1)
E3	Third space of bass staff	Right of the two black keys	Thumb (1)
G3	Fourth space of bass staff	Between first two of 3 black keys	Thumb (1)
A3	Top line of bass staff	Between last two of 3 black keys	Thumb (1)
B3	Space just above bass staff	White key just left of middle C	Thumb (1)

Section A - Horn Waltz (Measures 1-16)

The horn waltz at p: A3, D4, F#4 rising to a long G4 and a held F#4, over a held D3. From measure 8 the clarinet answer runs in eighths, climbs to E5 at mf in measure 14 and slides down to Bb3 in measure 16, while the bass changes note each bar, mostly downward.

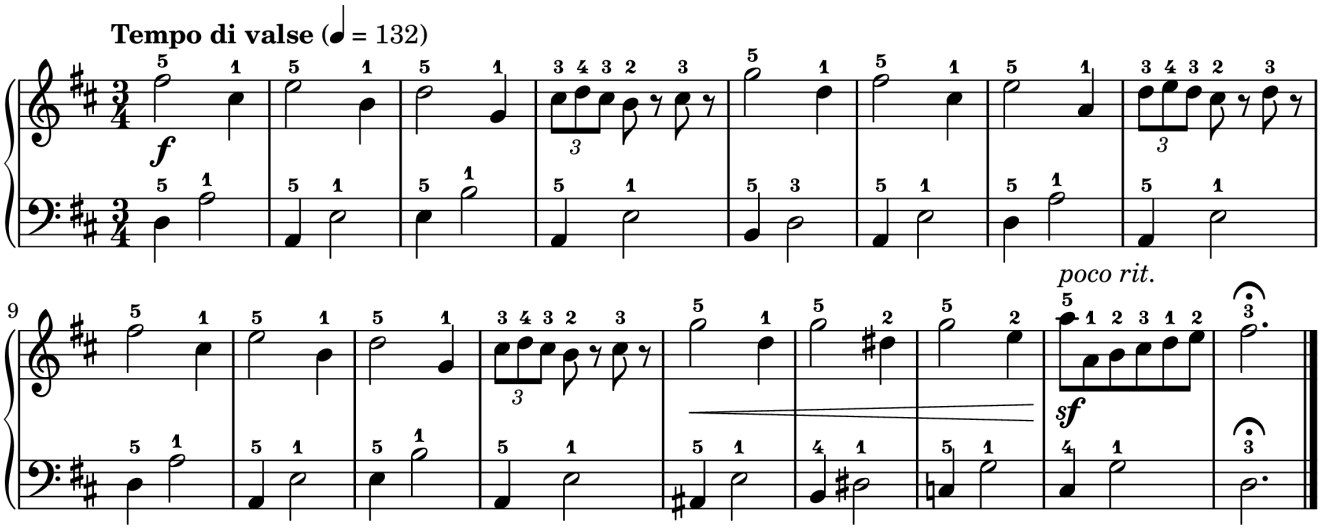


Waltz of the Flowers - Section A - Horn Waltz

> **How to Practice This Section**
>
> Practice measures 8-16 right hand alone at x0.5. The thumb always lands on a white key (A3, C4, E4, A4): find it before you start each run.

Section B - Violin Tune (Measures 17-33)

The violin tune at f: a half note and a quarter in each bar, F#5 and C#5, E5 and B4, D5 and G4. Measures 20, 24 and 28 are short triplet fill-ins. From measure 29 the pinky stays on G5, measure 32 drops from A5 to A4 at sf, and the last bar is a held F#5 over D3.

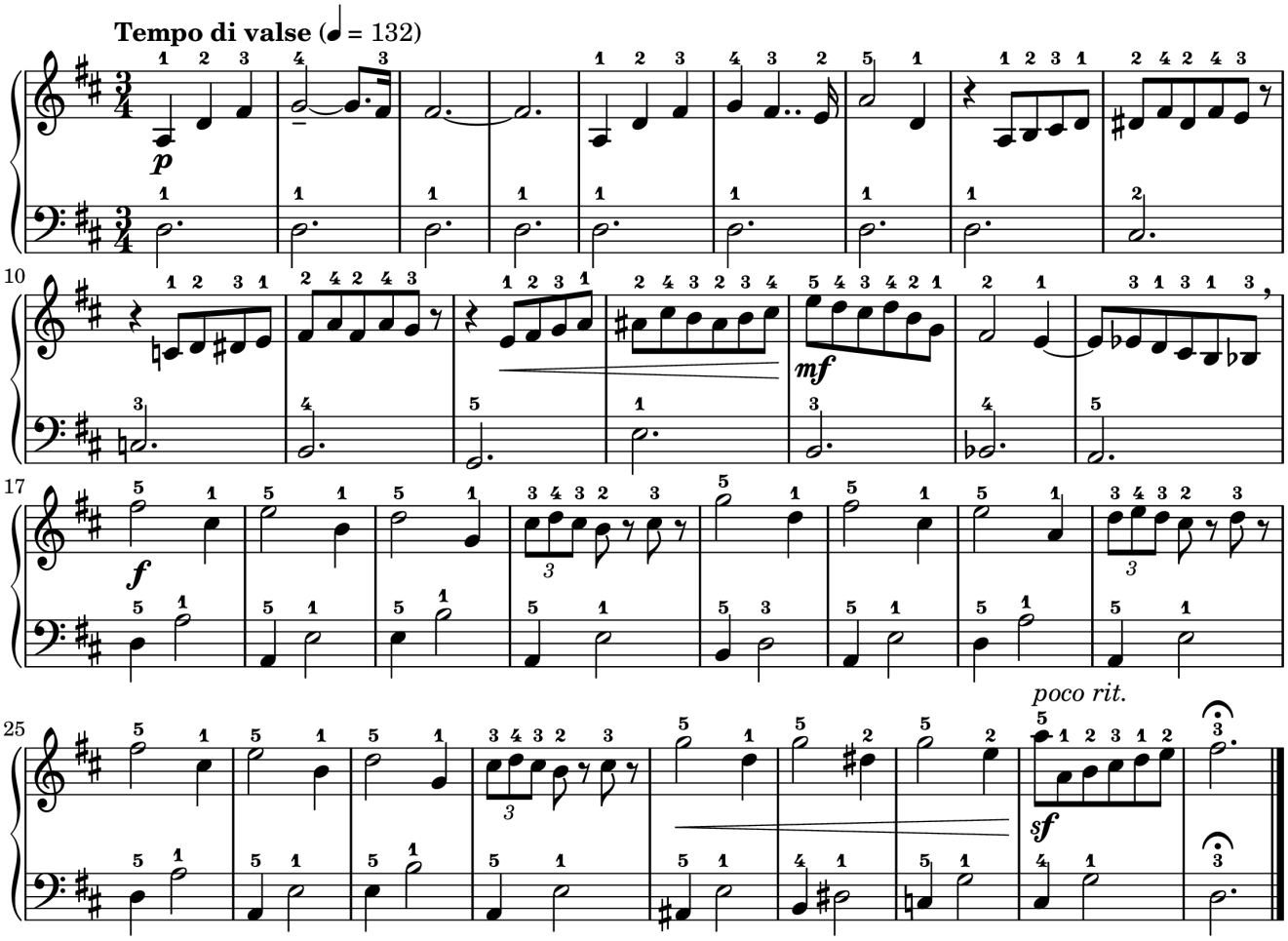


Waltz of the Flowers - Section B - Violin Tune

> **How to Practice This Section**
>
> Loop measures 29-32 at x0.75. Keep the pinky on G5 for three bars while the lower note climbs D5, D#5, E5, then move the whole hand down for the A4 after the A5.

Full Score

Here is the complete piece with all sections combined.



Waltz of the Flowers - P. I. Tchaikovsky (1892)

Step-by-Step Practice Guide

Step 1: Right Hand Alone

1. Measures 1-7: A3-D4-F#4 on 1-2-3, G4 on 4; hold the F#4 of measures 3-4 for six beats
2. Measures 9 and 11: D#4-F#4 and F#4-A4 on 2-4, back and forth, then the next note on 3
3. Measure 16: Eb4, D4, C#4, B3, Bb3 on 3-1-3-1-3, then breathe before measure 17
4. Measures 17-28: pinky on the half note, thumb on the quarter; the triplets are 3-4-3

Step 2: Left Hand Alone

1. Measures 1-8: hold D3 with the thumb, a full bar each time
2. Measures 9-16: C#3, C3, B2, G2, E3, B2, Bb2, A2, one long note per bar
3. Section B: pinky on beat 1, thumb on the half note, usually a fifth higher
4. Measures 29-33: A#2-E3, B2-D#3 (4-1), C3-G3, C#3-G3 (4-1), then D3 on 3

Step 3: Hands Together

1. Start at x0.5 (66 to the quarter) and count three in every bar
2. Section A: the left hand plays on beat 1 and holds; in measures 8, 10 and 12 it plays alone on beat 1
3. Section B: the left hand changes on beat 2, the right hand on beat 3; go slowly to feel the offset
4. Target 132 to the quarter: p, mf in measure 14, f at 17, sf and poco rit. in measure 32



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