

*Entr'acte from Sleeping Beauty*

Peter I. Tchaikovsky/Armand Russell

*Sleeping Beauty*, one of three ballets written by Tchaikovsky, was composed during 1888–1889 and is based on the Charles Perrault 1679 fairy tale *The Sleeping Beauty in the Wood*. Many musicologists and historians believe it to be the most perfectly wrought of the three, more classic in its restraint in comparison to the romanticism of *Swan Lake* and the seasonal whimsy of *The Nutcracker*.

This version of the *Entr'acte* was made for the Verdehr Trio by Armand Russell at the suggestion of conductor Kevin Rhodes to Walter Verdehr.

The Russian composer Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840–1893) was one of the most prominent and important Romantic composers. His large output includes symphonies and other symphony works, concertos, ballets, operas, and chamber music.

Armand Russell (born 1932, Seattle, Washington) completed the Bachelor of Arts and the Master of Arts degrees in music composition at the University of Washington where he studied with John Verrall and George McKay. He earned the doctorate in composition at the Eastman School of Music, studying with Bernard Rogers and Howard Hanson. As a virtuoso bass player, he played double bass in the Seattle Symphony Orchestra, the Rochester Philharmonic and Civic Orchestras, the Boston Pops Tour Orchestra, and the Honolulu Symphony. During the summers, he was a Visiting Professor at the Eastman School of Music.

Russell joined the University of Hawaii music faculty in 1961 as Professor of Music Theory and Composition, and he later served as Chairman of the Music Department for seven years. Under his leadership, the department earned national accreditation by the National Association of Schools of Music and the graduate program was expanded. He retired in 1994 as Professor Emeritus. He now lives in Santa Rosa, California.

Russell was a prolific composer whose output included many works for double bass and percussion in solo, chamber, and concerto formats. Some of his frequently performed published works include the *Pas de deux* for clarinet and percussion, *Sonata for Percussion and Piano*, *Suite Concertante* for tuba and woodwind quintet, *Theme and Fantasia* for band, *Chaconne* for double bass and piano, *Buffo Set* for double bass and piano, *Harlequin Concerto* for double bass and orchestra (or piano), and several works for chorus. Russell also co-authored with Allen Trubitt, a series of theory textbooks, *The Shaping of Musical Elements*, published by Macmillan.