

fort wayne ballet

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The Sleeping Beauty



Attending a Ballet Performance

Going to the theater for ballet is similar to going to a movie:

- The lights will dim before the performance begins, and the theater is dark during the ballet.
- Audience members are expected to sit still and quietly in their seats.
- Photography and video recording are strictly prohibited. In addition to being distracting to the dancers and other audience members, *The Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake* and *The Sleeping Beauty* are copyrighted artistic material.
- Cell phones and electronics should be turned off when you enter the theater.
- There is no intermission. Please use the restroom prior to the performance.



However, unlike the movies:

- There is no talking in ballet. The story is told through movements, music, costumes, and sets.
- Ballet is performed live. There are no second takes and dancers can react to the audience!
- Clap when you enjoy something, laugh if something is funny, and give a standing ovation at the end if it was amazing. Let the dancers know you appreciate their hard work!
- At the end of the performance, the dancers and musicians take a bow. This is a *curtain call*.
- Some people make their visit to the ballet a dress-up occasion; others dress casually. Wear something you are comfortable in so you can enjoy the performance.

Most Importantly:



About The Sleeping Beauty



Marius Petipa



Original cast members costumed for Act I. At center is Carlotta Brianza as Aurora. [Mariinsky Theatre](#), St. Petersburg, 1890



Peter Ilyitch Tchaikovsky
Composer

The Sleeping Beauty is a ballet in a prologue and three acts, first performed in 1890. The music was composed by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky. The score was completed in 1889, and is the second of his three ballets. The original scenario was conceived by Ivan Vsevolozhsky, and is based on Charles Perrault's *La Belle au bois dormant*. The choreographer of the original production was Marius Petipa.

Tchaikovsky based his work on Brothers Grimm's version of Perrault's 'Dornröschen'. In that version, the Princess's parents survive the 100-year sleep to celebrate the Princess's wedding with the Prince. However, Vsevolozhsky incorporated Perrault's other characters from his stories into the ballet, such as Puss in Boots, Little Red Riding Hood, Cinderella, Bluebird, Bluebeard, Ricky of the Tuft and Tom Thumb. Other French fairy tale characters to be featured are Beauty and the Beast, Pretty Goldilocks and The White Cat. Regardless, Tchaikovsky was happy to inform the Director of the Imperial Theatre that he had great pleasure studying the work and came away with adequate inspiration to do it justice.

The premiere performance took place at the Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg on January 15, 1890. The work has become one of the classical repertoire's most famous ballets.

The Story of The Sleeping Beauty

Prologue (The Christening)

King Florestan XXIV and his Queen have welcomed their first child, Princess Aurora, and declare a grand christening ceremony to honor her. Six fairies are invited to the ceremony to bestow gifts on the child. Each fairy brings a gift of a virtue or positive trait, such as beauty, courage, sweetness, musical talent, and mischief. The most powerful fairy, the Lilac Fairy,^[9] arrives with her entourage, but before she can bestow her gift, the evil fairy Carabosse arrives with her minions.

^[10] Carabosse furiously asks the King and Queen why she had not received an invitation to the christening. The blame falls on Catalabutte, the Master of Ceremonies who was in charge of the guest list. Carabosse gleefully tears his wig off and beats him with her staff, before placing a curse upon the baby princess as revenge: Aurora will indeed grow up to be a beautiful, healthy, delightful young lady, but on her sixteenth birthday she will prick her finger on a [spindle](#) and die. The King and Queen are horrified and beg Carabosse for mercy, but she shows none. However, the Lilac Fairy intervenes. Though she does not have enough power to completely undo the curse, she alters it, allowing the spindle to cause a peaceful 100-year sleep for the princess, rather than death. At the end of those 100 years, she will be woken by the kiss of a handsome prince. Relieved that Aurora's life will ultimately be spared, the court is set at ease.



The Story of The Sleeping Beauty (*continued*)

Act I (The Spell)

It is the day of Princess Aurora's sixteenth birthday. Celebrations are underway, though the King is still unsettled by Carabosse's omen. The master of ceremonies discovers several peasant ladies frolicking about with knitting needles and alerts the King, who initially sentences the women to a harsh punishment. The Queen gently persuades him to spare the innocent citizens, and he agrees. An elaborate waltz is performed and Princess Aurora arrives.^{[11][12]} She is introduced to four suitors by her doting parents. Aurora and the suitors perform the famous Rose Adagio.^[13] Presently, a cloaked stranger appears and offers a gift to the princess: a spindle. Having never seen one before, Aurora curiously examines the strange object as her parents desperately try to intervene. As predicted, she pricks her finger.^[14] While initially appearing to recover quickly, she falls into a swoon and collapses. The cloaked stranger reveals herself to be Carabosse, who believes that her curse still stands and that the princess is dead. Once again, the Lilac Fairy quells the hubbub and reminds the King and Queen that Aurora is merely asleep.



The Story of The Sleeping Beauty (continued)

The princess is carried off to bed, and the Lilac Fairy casts a spell of slumber over the entire kingdom, which will only be broken when Aurora awakens. A thick layer of thorny plants grows over the palace, hiding it from view.

Act II (The Vision)

One hundred years later, Prince Désiré is attending a hunting party. Though his companions are lighthearted, the prince is unhappy and eventually asks to be left alone. On his own in the forest, he is met by the Lilac Fairy, who has chosen him to awaken Aurora. She shows him a vision of the beautiful princess, and the prince is immediately smitten. The Lilac Fairy explains the situation, and Désiré begs to be taken to the princess. The Lilac Fairy takes him to the hidden castle. Carabosse makes one last attempt to cement her vengeful curse, but the Lilac Fairy and the prince manage to defeat her together at last. Once inside the castle, Désiré awakens Aurora with a kiss. The rest of the court wakes as well, and the King and Queen heartily approve when the prince proposes marriage and the princess accepts.



The Story of The Sleeping Beauty (continued)

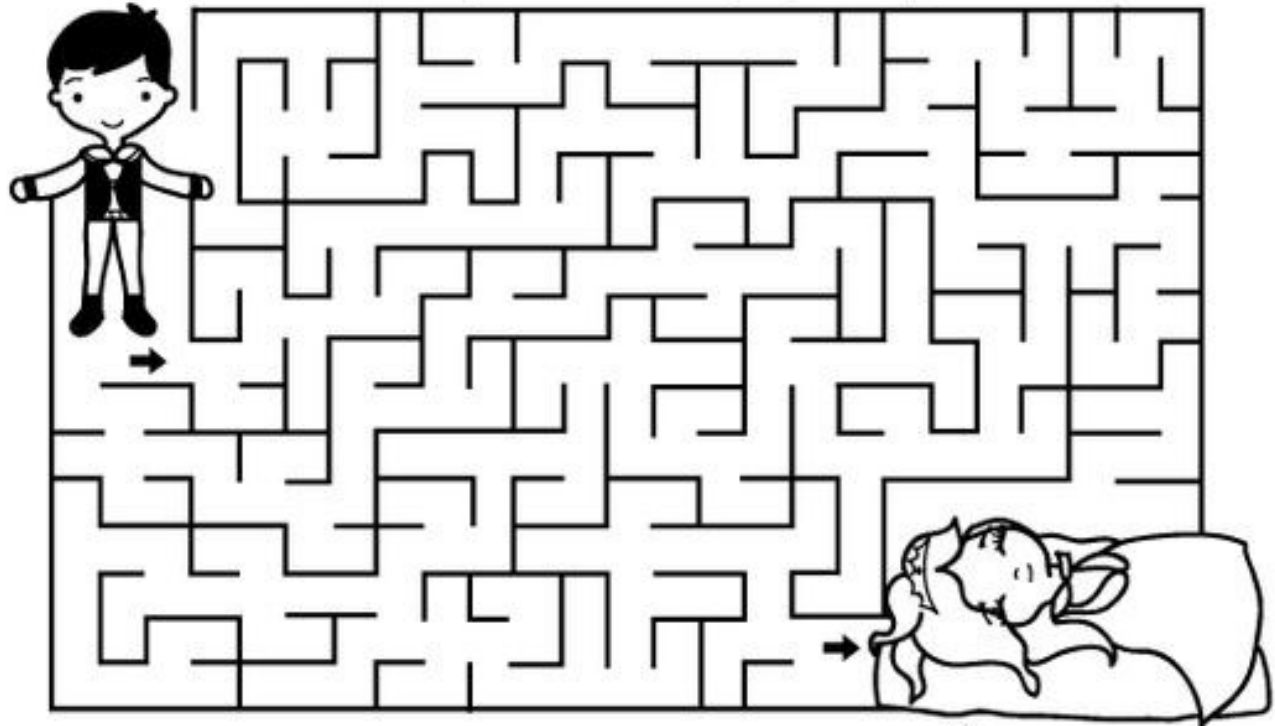
Act III (The Wedding)

The royal wedding is under way. Guests include the Jewel Fairies: Diamond, Ruby, Emerald and Sapphire, and of course the Lilac Fairy. Fairytale characters are in attendance, including Puss in Boots and The White Cat, Red Riding Hood, the Bluebird, and others. Aurora and Désiré perform a grand Pas de Deux, and the entire ensemble dances. The prince and princess are married, with the Lilac Fairy blessing the union.



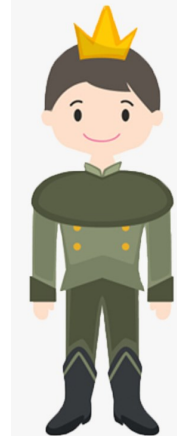
Sleeping Beauty Maze

Help the prince find Sleeping Beauty.



Match the Characters to their partners

Match each character on the left to their correct partner on the right!



Fun things to try....

Listen and identify. Listen to a recording of Peter Ilyitch Tchaikovsky's *The Sleeping Beauty* and try to identify the instruments and their families. Next try to visually identify the instruments you heard either by print source, online or instruments you have in the classroom. Have teams and compete. The team that identifies the most instruments correctly wins!

Create a story. Create a new ending for *The Sleeping Beauty* that answers the following questions: what would happen if the Prince didn't defeat Carabosse and awake Aurora? What if she stayed asleep for another 100 years? How would the story change?

Create another story. Create another "*The Sleeping Beauty*" story that answers at least one of the following questions: what would happen if Carabosse had been invited to the Christening? What would happen if the Lilac Fairy had already given her gift? Or what would happen if Puss in Boots wanted to marry Aurora?

Listen to Tchaikovsky's *The Sleeping Beauty*. Peter Ilyitch Tchaikovsky's *The Sleeping Beauty* has wonderful, exciting music! Using a section of the music, identify the mood. Now explore how you can create this mood in movement. How does this music and movement make you feel?

Write a short song: Pretend you have been given the task of creating a ballet, like Tchaikovsky did, and invent a short song. Add an instrument or sounds from the classroom. Be sure to explore the pitches, melodies, and accompaniment using available traditional and electronic resources. Play and/or record this song for your friends to hear.

Choreograph a short dance: Pretend you are the choreographer and create a movement phrase that can go along with the song or music that you or your friends have just created. Try teaching this dance to one or more of your friends. Combine your movement phrase with a friend's movement phrase; create a transition phrase to allow a smooth flow from your phrase to theirs. Write about your participation in this activity and describe how it made you feel.

Athletes. Dancers are very athletic, strong and flexible. What athletes would benefit from ballet training? Who else would benefit? Name other benefits from dance training.

[illegible]

Share your favorite moments with us!
Send your responses to Fort Wayne Ballet
300 E. Main St., Fort Wayne, IN 46802

Draw a picture of your favorite part from the performance
The Sleeping Beauty.

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Fine Arts Curriculum Alignment

Docent content: This docent curriculum was designed to explore *The Sleeping Beauty* as presented by the Fort Wayne Ballet and the question and answer session after the In-theater performance. It aligns with Indiana's Academic Standards for Music (2010) and Dance (2010) at the grade three level.

Indiana's Academic Standards for Music 4, 6, 8, 9

Indiana's Academic Standards for Dance 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8

Worksheets: These worksheets are designed as activities for students that relate to *The Sleeping Beauty* and align with Indiana's Academic Standards for Music and Dance.

Fun things to try. An activities list for students that aligns with:

Indiana's Academic Standards for Music:

Standard 6 - 3.6.4

Standard 9 – 3.9.2

Indiana Academic Standards for Dance: Standard 5 – 3.5.2,

More things to try. An activities list for students that aligns with:

Indiana Academic Standards for Music:

Standard 4 – 3.4.1, 3.4.4,

Standard 8 – 3.8.2, 3.8.4

Indiana Academic Standards for Dance:

Standard 1 – 3.1.2, 3.1.4,

Standard 2 – 3.2.1, Standard 3 – 3.3.2, Standard 4 – 3.4.1

Draw your favorite moment in the ballet *The Sleeping Beauty*.

Indiana's Academic Standards for Dance: Standard 4 – 3.4.2

Please write the dancers.

Indiana's Academic Standards for Dance: Standard 4 – 3.4.2