

# Tchaikovsky scholar discovers original text for DSO score

By FRANK PROVENZANO  
STAFF WRITER

Among Tchaikovsky's thousands of extant letters, scholars often cite one of his phrases to sum up his work, "I am a Russian, Russian, Russian, to the marrow of my bones." Wonder if his romantic vision would've grown jaded if he'd been around for the rewriting of his work by Soviet Communists during the 1950s.

"It was cultural genocide," said Hona Yoffe, a Tchaikovsky scholar and head librarian at the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. Yoffe and his wife, Lydia, of Birmingham, researched new orchestral parts and the original text of the DSO's recent performance of Tchaikovsky's "Cantata in Commemoration of the Bicentenary of the Birth of Peter the Great."

The Yoffes have also played key roles in acquiring orchestra music for the DSO's recordings of Tchaikovsky's works, including the recent release of the Russian composer's Suite No. 4, "Mozartiana," and "The Seasons." The new CD marks the fourth all-Tchaikovsky works from Neeme Jarvi and the DSO, following the 1994 critically acclaimed release, "The Snow Maiden."

Immigrants from Latvia, a former Soviet Republic, the Yoffes' bond to Tchaikovsky grew stronger after they immigrated to the U.S. in 1978.

"When we came off the train in Union Square in New York, an orchestra was there in the park playing Tchaikovsky's fourth symphony," said Hona Yoffe. "We've always been surprised and delighted at how Americans knew and liked his work, and so was Tchaikovsky himself."

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*Hona Yoffe  
Tchaikovsky scholar/Head Librarian at DSO*

ca," published by Oxford University.

Before becoming the DSO librarian in 1982, Yoffe served for four years in a similar post at the Juillard School in New York. His wife, Lydia, is an instructor of Russian language and literature at Wayne State University.

During his research for the DSO performance of Tchaikovsky's cantata honoring Peter the Great, Yoffe discovered a travesty on the scale of a Hollywood hack writer refashioning Shakespeare. At the height of Cold War propaganda, the Soviets published the complete works of Tchaikovsky with the cantata for Peter the Great renamed "Cantata for the Opening of the Moscow Polytechnic Exhibition." No mention was made of Peter the Great since the Soviets considered the former czar as ignoble and not quite fitting into their reductionist historical interpretation.

Venturing to the Tchaikovsky Museum in Klin, just north of Moscow, Yoffe acquired a copy of the original piano and vocal score. He also discovered the original accompanying text. "The piece had never been performed with the right text until here with the DSO," he said.

Whether coincidental or fate, Yoffe noted that both Tchaikovsky and DSO conductor Jarvi, a native of the former Soviet Republic Estonia, attended the St. Petersburg Conservatory of Music.

# Summer chockful of movie action

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The 1997 summer movies through Labor Day, grouped by release dates. Some movies will change dates, and several titles will be released first on a limited basis.

■ June 13: "Speed 2: Cruise Control." Sandra Bullock is back. Keanu Reeves isn't, and William Dafoe is the villain; "Wedding Bell Blues," three never-married women vow to change their marital status in a Las Vegas weekend; "U2's Rattle and Hum," Peter Fonda stars as a bee keeper in the acclaimed independent film; "End of Summer," Jacqueline Bisset and Peter Weller in a love story; "Tempress Moon," the new movie from the Chinese director of "Farewell My Concubine."

■ June 20: "Batman and Robin," the third Batman (George Clooney) in the fourth Batman movie, with Arnold Schwarzenegger as the bad guy; "Head Above Water," a dark comedy pairing Harvey Keitel and Cameron Diaz; "Dream With the Fishes," a suicidal man and a terminally ill stranger make a strange pact; "When the Cat's Away," a young woman looks for her lost cat in a French comedy; "Fall," writer-director-actor Eric Schaeffer plays a cabbie; "The Last Time I Committed Suicide," Keanu Reeves in a film about the beat generation.

■ June 27: "Hercules," Disney's animated musical about the Greek hero; "My Best Friend's Wedding," pals Julia Roberts and Dermot Mulroney may or may not marry each other; "Face/Off," Hong Kong action filmmaker John Woo directs John Travolta and Nicolas Cage, who switch identities; "Tetsuo II: Body Hammer," a sequel to a 1992 cult film; "Shall We Dance," Japanese-language movie about ballroom dancing; "Mondo," French movie about a 10-year-old gypsy boy.

■ July 2: "Men in Black," Tommy Lee Jones and Will Smith fight alien invaders; "Wild America," three young brothers (including Jonathan Taylor Thomas and Devon Sawa) go on an animal adventure; "Out to Sea," Walter Matthau and Jack Lemmon play grumpy old cruise ship dance instructors.



**ROM PHILLY/EVERETT COLLECTION FOR DRAMA: Sandra Bullock as Annie Porter and Jason Patric as Alex Shaw plan their next move as they try to stop a luxury cruise liner, which is hurtling toward disaster in "Speed 2: Cruise Control."**

1963 classic with Brigitte Bardot.

■ July 9: "Four Little Girls," Spike Lee's documentary about 1963's Alabama church bombing.

■ July 11: "Contact," Jodie Foster and Matthew McConaughey in an adaptation of Carl Sagan's novel; "A Simple Wish," a young girl meets an inept genie of sorts (Martin Short); "Nothing to Lose," an advertising executive (Tim Robbins) turns the tables on a car-jacker (Martin Lawrence); "Alive and Kicking," story of a dancer with AIDS.

■ July 18: "Mimic," Mira Sorvino in a genetic engineering thriller; "This World, Then

Fireworks," Billy Zane and Gina Gershon star overly friendly siblings.

■ July 23: "Star Maps," story of prostitution and a vendor of maps to Hollywood homes.

■ July 26: "Air Force One," Harrison Ford is the U.S. president and his family has been hijacked; "Conspiracy Theory," Julia Roberts and Mel Gibson pair in a tale of a paranoid cabbie; "Good Burger," children's film adapted from the TV show "All That"; "Box of Moonlight," John Turturro stars in a modern fable.

■ July 30: "187," Samuel Jackson stars in a story about violence in schools.

■ July undetermined: "Titan-

ic," the expensive disaster movie could come out later this year; "Edwards and Hunt," Chris Farley and Kevin Dunn in a comedy about two Lewis and Clark wanna-bes; "Watch That Man," Bill Murray stars.

■ Aug. 1: "Event Horizon," Laurence Fishburne and Sam Neill in another extraterrestrial drama; "In the Company of Men," very black comedy about a love triangle; "Cop Land," independent film director James Mangold with a big-hitter cast of Sylvester Stallone and Robert De Niro; "Air Bud," a comedy about a basketball-shooting golden retriever; "Leave it to Beaver," the Beav is transplanted into a feature film; "Picture Perfect," Jennifer Aniston (TV's "Friends") and Kevin Bacon in a story of a make-believe boyfriend.

■ Aug. 8: "Free Willy 3: The Rescue," the whale splashes down again; "Desperate Measures," a police officer (Andy Garcia) must find an escaped murderer (Michael Keaton) for a bone marrow transplant; "Career Girls," the new film from "Scenes and Lies" director Mike Leigh.

■ Aug. 15: "Excess Baggage," Alicia Silverstone plays a rich girl involved in a kidnapping plot gone bad; "The Full Monty," a group of unlikely men form a stripper act in an English comedy; "Steel," basketball's Shaquille O'Neal plays a comic book hero; "She's So Lovely," Sean Penn and real-life companion Robin Wright star.

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