



Fairy Tales in Classical Music

Dr. Rachel Franklin

Monday, November 3-24, 2025 - 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. ET

Fairytales in Classical Music: Not Just for Halloween!

NOV 10: Grimm, Perrault and Andersen, masters of enchantment

Charles Perrault, Hans Christian Anderson, the Brothers Grimm: the magical tales they told have provided the inspiration for many extraordinary classical masterpieces. We compare the varied approaches taken in such beloved works as Tchaikovsky's *Sleeping Beauty*, two very different *Cinderellas* by Rossini and Prokofiev, Humperdinck's *Hänsel und Gretel*, Zemlinsky's *Die Seejungfrau* (the Mermaid), *The Fairy's Kiss* by Stravinsky, Ravel's *Mother Goose Suite*, and more.

Works explored, media used

Gioachino Rossini 1792-1868

La Cenerentola, 1817

- Orchestra Teatro alla Scala, Claudio Abbado, Fredericke von Stade, etc
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iuOVHThmI0Q>
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WJjsWplxqt8&list=RDWJjsWplxqt8&start_radio=1

Sergei Prokofiev, 1891-1953

Cinderella, 1945

- Matthew Bourne's WWII setting, 1997.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BH7G0LM06PU>

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, 1840-1893

Sleeping Beauty, 1889

- Bolshoi, Mariinsky Theatre, Act 1 garland waltz, Petipa revised Sergeev, 2015
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FBEgg2HO-yI>
- Stuttgart Ballet, Little Red Riding Hood and the Wolf
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yeAT-IFKpBk&list=RDyeAT-IFKpBk&start_radio=1

Sergei Rachmaninoff, 1873-1943/Ottorino Respighi, 1879-1936

Cinq Études-tableaux, no. 4, Little Red Riding Hood and the Wolf

- BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, Gianandrea Noseda
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yvYqiN23zFw&list=RDyvYqiN23zFw&start_radio=1

Maurice Ravel, 1875-1937

Ma mère l'Oye/Mother Goose Suite, 1911

- London Philharmonic Orchestra, conductor Sian Edwards
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lwZsrmxaAUU&list=RDlwZsrmxaAUU&start_radio=1

Igor Stravinsky, 1882-1971

The Fairy's Kiss/Le baiser de la fée, 1928

- Moscow State Theater of Classical Ballet, Tatyana Yatsenko
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TzE3epKL9h4&list=RDtZtE3epKL9h4&start_radio=1

Alexander Zemlinsky, 1871-1942

Die Seejungfrau/The Mermaid, 1903

- WDR Symphony Orchestra, conductor Ingo Metzmacher
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MFBM0FhL2xk&list=RDMFBM0FhL2xk&start_radio=1

Engelbert Humperdinck, 1854-1921

Hansel and Gretel, 1893

- Welsh National Opera, Imelda Drumm - Hansel, Linda Kitchen - Gretel, Nigel Robson – the Witch
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LgMIXjbs9ho>
- Metropolitan Opera, Robert Brubaker – the Witch
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sf7ieZzy2-g>