

Magic world of classical music, performance, craft and storytelling.

Together with the children, in a playful and exciting way, we will get acquainted with such magnificent and easy-to-understand masterpieces of world culture as the ballet *The Nutcracker* by Tchaikovsky, operas *The Magic Flute* by Mozart, *The Carnival of the Animals* by Saint-Saëns, *Peter and the Wolf* by Sergey Prokofiev, *The Four Seasons* by Vivaldi, *Moonlight Sonata* by Beethoven, *Swan Lake* by Tchaikovsky, the musical performance *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, orchestral suite *Peer Gynt* and much more.

This course opens the doors to the world of high culture for children aged 5-9 years, forming the basis for a happy and successful future for them.

The main objectives of this course are:

- Harmonious development of personality through acquaintance with cultural heritage
- Development of self-regulation and attention - children become more focused and obedient
- Alternatives to gadgets: developing creativity and imagination
- Discovery and development of individual abilities, including musical and creative talents
- Development of independence, empathy, leadership qualities

Together we will develop children's talents and open new horizons for self-expression. These unique lessons are a magical key to the world of creativity and self-knowledge.

Classical music can transform personality, expand the boundaries of perception and help find new meanings. Thanks to these lessons, we will inspire young hearts, and they, in turn, will inspire their families and friends.

Example of Lesson 1.

We get acquainted with the group and begin to talk about the *Nutcracker* ballet with the help of the wonderful book - *Der Nussknacker* by Susa Hämmerle. Thanks to the wonderful illustrations, it will be easy for us to move in our thoughts to the Stahlbaum family house, who are waiting for a guests on Christmas Eve.

Together we follow the plot of a book, listen to musical fragments and watch video fragments from the ballet *The Nutcracker*.

Uncle Drosselmeyer brought all the children interesting gifts - wind-up dolls. These are Harlequin, Columbine, Merchant and Good Soldier. The uncle starts them up and - lo and behold - they begin to move. Clumsy at first, but gradually their movements become smoother and more graceful. The dolls begin to dance.

How do children see this dance? Together we will make our own doll dance.

But wait. That's not all. Uncle Drosselmeyer takes out another doll from the mysterious black box. This time the Nutcracker. He gives it to Clara, but the jealous brother takes the doll away and breaks it. The children laugh at Clara because her beautiful doll has turned into a freak. Clara cries, but her uncle calms her down. He promises that miracles will happen on Christmas night. Clara carefully places the Nutcracker in the doll's crib.

Here we come to an important theme - Clara did not turn away from the ugly doll, she accepted it and cared about it. Together with the group we put our imaginary Nutcrackers to sleep. Thus we developing empathy and the ability to see the good heart behind a person's unusual appearance.

This is how we analyze the entire work – The Nutcracker - easily, playfully, combining our discussions with dancing, performances and even craft. So, for example, we will dance the Waltz of Snowflakes or try to create our own Kingdom of Sweets - this is a kingdom where all the surrounding objects are made of something sweet: paths are made of cookies, houses are made of candies, trees are made of chocolate and green marmalade.

Children will receive a voluntary homework - to draw or make their own Kingdom of Sweets. They can use modeling clay, paper, or cotton wool. Those who wish can also draw a Sugarplum Fairy costume. Or even create it from fabric or paper.

When we finish with the Nutcracker, we will try together to create our own fairy tale, our own winter city with beautiful houses. Together we will look at photos of beautiful houses and talk a little bit about architecture. We will try to write a plot for the story together, create our own characters and what happens to them. And, most importantly, we will try to create a conflict between the main characters and find the right ways to resolve it.

We will also try to include in the story other topics that we discussed during the lessons - empathy, the ability to accept another person as he/she is, to become his/her friend, protect him/her if necessary, to overcome our own fears or embarrassment in front of others, like Clara took care of the Nutcracker despite the ridicule she received from other children and even protected the Nutcracker from the terrible Mouse King.