


Themes from Capriccio Italien

Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840–1893)

Arranged by Richard Meyer

INSTRUMENTATION

1 — Conductor Score	1 — Tuba
1 — Flute	2 — Percussion I (Snare Drum, Bass Drum)
1 — Oboe	2 — Percussion 2 (Triangle, Crash Cymbals, Tambourine)
1 — Bassoon	1 — Timpani (G-D)
1 — B \flat Clarinet I	8 — Violin I
1 — B \flat Clarinet II	8 — Violin II
1 — B \flat Bass Clarinet	5 — Violin III (Viola )
1 — E \flat Alto Saxophone	5 — Viola
1 — F Horn	5 — Cello
1 — B \flat Trumpet I	5 — String Bass
1 — B \flat Trumpet II	1 — Piano Accompaniment
1 — Trombone	

NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

While in Rome for the Roman Carnival of 1880, Tchaikovsky wrote to his friend and benefactor Nadeja von Meck: “I have sketched the rough draft of an Italian Capriccio based on popular melodies. I think it has a bright future.” Using folk melodies that he found in published collections and heard in the streets, Tchaikovsky worked at top speed, sketching his first draft in just one week. A full score was finished after his return to Russia a few months later. The opening fanfare is a bugle call that Tchaikovsky heard daily from his hotel, which was next door to the barracks of the Royal Italian Cuirasseurs. Two catchy melodies follow, colorfully orchestrated to feature woodwinds, strings, brass, and a full compliment of percussion instruments. A great introduction to six-eight meter, this wonderful arrangement gives students a chance to explore a wide variety of playing techniques. All string parts are in first position, and Violin III (Viola T.C.), Bass Clarinet, Alto Sax, and Piano Accompaniment parts are included.