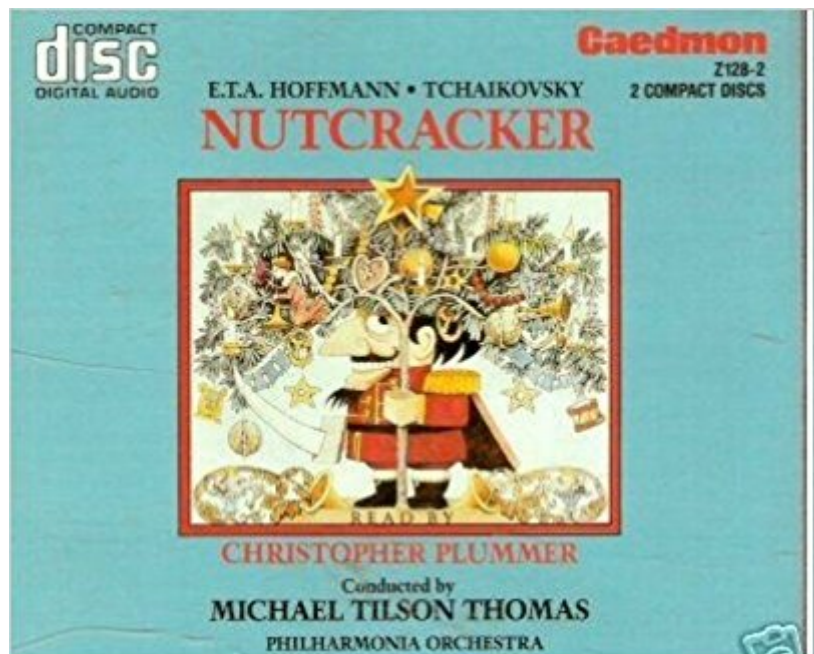




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E.T.A. Hoffmann/ Tchaikovsky-Nutcracker -Michael Tilson Thomas (Import)



Synopsis

E.T.A. Hoffman-Tchaikovsky-Nutcracker Performed by Philharmonia Orchestra Conducted by Michael Tilson Thomas (2 CD Set) Cd-1 1.Christmas Eve 2.The Presents 3.Marie's Favorite 4.Strange Happenings 5.The Battle 6.Marie's Illness 7.The Story of The Hard Nut 8.The Story of The Hard Nut,Continued (Beginning) Cd-2 1.The Story of The Hard Nut,Continued (Conclusion) 2.The Story of The Hard Nut,Concluded 3.Uncle and Nephew 4.Victory 5.The Land of the Dolls 6.The Capital 7.Conclusion

Book Information

Audio CD

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Customer Reviews

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This is the quintessential Nutcracker tale. I grew up on this tale, every year at Christmas, for twenty years. And so, after finding the family copy of the CD cracked, and one disc missing, I was committed to spending the rest of my adult life searching for a replacement copy (Not a single lie). Luckily, I only had to search for two years before finally finding a copy here on (God bless whoever sold me that brand new 1980's CD).As for the story, it is your classic Nutcracker tale, of course. Marie Stahlbaum is a kind-hearted, young girl who receives the titular Nutcracker toy on Christmas eve. She then goes onto experience a fanciful journey after one night, the Nutcracker comes alive (along with all of her brother's toys) to battle the Mouse King. It's based on E.T.A. Hoffmann's tale, and doesn't spare any of the flourish of the original story. The tale alone is enough of an

enjoyment. But it's the combination of Michael Tilson Thomas's philharmonic orchestra and Mr. Plummer that takes this CD onto a whole 'nother level. Christopher Plummer's lively narration is simply magical with Tchaikovsky's timeless classical music sliding in and out of the foreground, from instrumental whispers to bold crescendos. I still can't figure out which I like more, Christopher Plummer's myriad of voices or his relish in telling the story. He's never dull when playing the characters whether it is the sweet Marie, the plucky Fritz, the sinister Madam Mouserinks or the mysterious Grandfather Drosselmeyer, he brings life each voice in a unique way. I've had the pleasure of seeing multiple Nutcracker ballets, and the experience was only made worth it by first listening to this rendition. For newcomers, it might seem odd to have what is essentially an audiobook blended with Tchaikovsky's music, but I can't underscore enough how both balance each other perfectly. My brother and I (both adults at this point) are still spellbound by the tale, but my brother's wife seemed to just offer that it made her sleepy to listen to. Either way, it should be perfect for imaginative and perhaps restless children.

The music of Tchaikovsky beautiful as ever. The added dimension on this recording however is the story-telling by Christopher Plummer. This is just the icing on the already wonderful cake! Nobody tells a story as well as he does.

This is a magnificent combination of the Nutcracker original story and the Nutcracker orchestra music. Christopher Plummer is amazing and does a very good job of reading. He, and the orchestra, do get very high and very low in volume, so I'm always running over to the cd player and turning it down or up. Other than that, it is perfect. It's worth the trouble for such a great presentation. I especially like that in this original story they do mention the Christ-child at Christmas. However, the story is also heavily laden with fortune-telling so it is not a perfectly virtuous Christmas story. Well, with all the Nativity books we read to them, we can afford this one compromise. Beauty has value in itself.

The nutcracker

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