

# Ballets

By: Darius Bermudez

# Igor Stravinsky



# Rite of Spring

- Prominent Dances: Adoration of the Earth / The Dance of Adolescent Girls / The Sacrifice
- In the last dance, a virgin dances herself to death as a “sacrifice” / the last notes from a flute spell out “DEAD”
- The premiere of the ballet in Russia of 1913 caused a riot / one critic hated unusually high bassoon solo that starts the ballet
- Draws from Lithuanian folk songs
- Set made by Nicholas Roerich / choreographed by Vaslav Nijinsky

# The Firebird

- Prominent Dances: Khorovod / Berceuse / Infernal Dance
- Khorovod is adapted from Rimsky-Korsakov's "Sinfonietta"
- Kashchei The Immortal is put to sleep by a bassoon solo in Berceuse
- Kashchei is bewitched by the Firebird to perform the "Infernal Dance"
- Prince Ivan dances with 13 princes
- Prince Ivan destroys the egg of Kashchei the Immortal with help from the Firebird
- Choreographed by Michel Fokine

# Aaron Copland



# Appalachian Spring

- Shaker Newlyweds (Bride and Husbandman) build a farmhouse in Pennsylvania
- Contains the shaker hymn “Simple Gifts” / played by a solo clarinet
- Originally meant to be played by a 13 member orchestra
- A priest gives a sermon while the dancers square-dance
- Set designed by Isamu Noguchi / Choreographed by Martha Graham

# Rodeo / Billy the Kid

## Rodeo

- Prominent Sections: Buckaroo Holiday / Saturday Night Waltz
- Contains a famous “Hoe-Down” scene
- Cowgirl and Champion Roper kiss during the climax
- Choreographed by Agnes de Mille

## Billy the Kid

- Prominent Sections: Gun Fight / Open Prairie /
- “Title Wild West Outlaw dies in the end”

# Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky





# The Nutcracker

- Prominent Dances: Arabian Dance / Waltz of the Flowers / Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy / Waltz of the Snowflakes
- Different dances represent different cultures and foods: chocolate, tea, coffee
- Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy: Starts with the celesta being played (one of the first times)
- The nutcracker was given to Drosselmeyer
- It fights the Mouse King in the final act

# Swan Lake

- Prominent dances: Hungarian Dances / Dance with Goblets
- The sorcerer Von Rothbart curses Odette to live as the title bird at night
- Odile (the daughter of Von Rothbart) is the doppelganger of Odette who is played by the same lead / dresses in black
- Prince Siegfried drowns himself after accidentally choosing to marry Odile over Odette
- Originally choreographed by Petipa / Revived in 1985 by Ivanov which used 32 straight fouettes