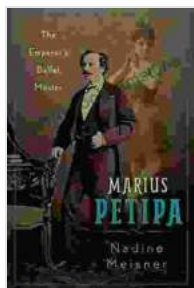


# Marius Petipa: The Emperor Ballet Master



## Marius Petipa: The Emperor's Ballet Master

by Glenn Alterman

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

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Marius Petipa was a French-born Russian ballet dancer, choreographer, and pedagogue. He is considered one of the most influential figures in the history of ballet. Petipa's ballets are known for their grandeur, opulence, and technical virtuosity. He is best known for his work on *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Swan Lake*, and *The Nutcracker*.

## Early Life and Career

Marius Petipa was born in Marseille, France, on March 11, 1818. His father, Jean-Antoine Petipa, was a ballet dancer and choreographer, and his mother, Victorine Grasseau, was a dancer and actress. Petipa began his dance training at the age of seven at the Paris Opera Ballet School. He made his debut as a dancer in 1838, and quickly rose through the ranks, becoming a principal dancer in 1847.

In 1847, Petipa was invited to join the Imperial Ballet in St. Petersburg, Russia. He accepted the invitation and moved to Russia, where he would spend the rest of his life. Petipa quickly became one of the leading dancers in the Imperial Ballet, and in 1862 he was appointed ballet master. He held this position for 30 years, during which time he choreographed over 50 ballets.

## **Petipa's Ballets**

Petipa's ballets are known for their grandeur, opulence, and technical virtuosity. He was a master of classical ballet technique, and his ballets are full of complex and challenging steps. Petipa also had a gift for creating beautiful and memorable stage pictures. His ballets are often set in lavish and exotic locales, and they feature stunning costumes and sets.

Some of Petipa's most famous ballets include:

- The Sleeping Beauty (1890)
- Swan Lake (1877)
- The Nutcracker (1892)
- Giselle (1841)
- La Bayadère (1877)
- Don Quixote (1869)
- Le Corsaire (1856)

Petipa's ballets have been performed all over the world, and they continue to be popular today. They are considered to be among the greatest works of art in the history of ballet.

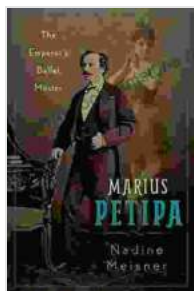
## Legacy

Marius Petipa is considered one of the most influential figures in the history of ballet. His ballets have had a profound impact on the development of classical ballet technique, and they continue to be performed and enjoyed by audiences around the world. Petipa's legacy is also evident in the many dancers and choreographers who have been inspired by his work.

Marius Petipa died in Gurzuf, Crimea, on July 14, 1910. He was 92 years old.

## Further Reading

- Marius Petipa in the Oxford Dictionary of Dance
- Marius Petipa in the Encyclopedia Britannica
- Marius Petipa on the Mariinsky Ballet website



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