

**PETER TCHAIKOVSKY**  
**“Mama in St. Petersburg”**  
By Carole L. Cooney

**Setting:** The outside lawn and the living room of the Tchaikovsky home

**Characters:**

**Narrator**

**Peter**

**Sasha, Peter’s baby sister**

**Mrs. Tchaikovsky**

**Narrator:** The Tchaikovsky family lived in the small town of Votkinsk located at the foothills of the Ural Mountains. It is a picturesque spot with woods, a huge lake, and charming houses. One sunny day, Peter and his baby sister, Sasha, were playing ball on the front lawn. Suddenly Sasha grabbed the ball and ran into the house. She kicked the ball into the living room and it rolled under the large, wooden table. Quickly she dove after the ball and hit her head on the table’s thick brown leg.

**Sasha:** Ow! (crying loudly) Mama! Mama! I want Mama!

**Peter:** Shhh, Sasha. Mama isn’t here. Where does it hurt?

**Sasha:** (crying softly) I bumped my head, Peter.

**Peter:** Then let me kiss the bump and it will go away.

**Sasha:** Peter, when will Mama come home? She has been away to St. Petersburg for a long, long time.

**Peter:** Father said she would be coming home tomorrow.

**Sasha:** Oh good! Peter, what can we do for Mama when she comes home? Will you play a little tune on the piano for her?

**Peter:** I think we can do something better. Let’s make up a song for Mama. Will you help me?

**Sasha:** Oh, yes, Peter. Mama will like that.

**Narrator:** And so Peter sat at the piano bench with Sasha. He plunked out a few notes and began to form a melody.

**Sasha:** What a pretty tune you've made, Peter. Do you think we can make it into a song to sing to Mama?

**Peter:** What a good idea, Sasha! Help me put some words to this little melody.

**Narrator:** The children worked quickly matching words to notes. Finally they were finished.

**Sasha:** What shall we call Mama's song, Peter?

**Peter:** Let's see. Mama is away and we know she's in her favorite city, St. Petersburg. Let's call it "Mama in St. Petersburg."

**Narrator:** The children practiced their song so that it would be perfect. Finally, morning arrived and the children heard the horse and carriage pull up to the driveway. Suddenly the front door burst open and Mrs. Tchaikovsky appeared.

**Peter and Sasha:** (very excited) Mama! Mama! It is so good to see you!

**Mrs. Tchaikovsky:** Come, my children. Give Mama a kiss and let me look at you!

**Peter:** Mama, please sit in the living room. We have a surprise for you!

**Narrator:** Mrs. Tchaikovsky removed her hat and coat and sat on the beautiful burgundy sofa in the living room. Peter and Sasha ran to the piano bench and sat ready to play the piano and sing their song for their dear mother.

( At the age of 5 Peter did write a little song for his mother called "Mama in St. Petersburg." Since there is no copy of it, the students may make up their own words and melody. The following is a little song to be sung to the tune of the "Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy" from Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker*.)

**Peter and Sasha:** Welcome home, dear Mama. We've missed you, We've missed you, we missed you, more than you can know.  
We've been very good children, good children, good children , good children because we love you so.  
Now you're home from St. Petersburg, you can dance, you can sing, you can play with us every day.  
Oh dear Mama, we're so glad you are home and we hope you'll never go away!

**Mrs. Tchaikovsky:** (laughing) My children, what a wonderful present you have given to me. I love it! Let's hear it once again!

**Narrator:** So Peter and Sasha sang their little song. Suddenly, their mother stood and danced around the room with the children as they sang their little song over and over and over again.