

**The character of Vladimir Lensky in Alexander Pushkin's and
Pyotr Tchaikovsky's works as an expression of artistic - cultural
transformation of a nineteenth - century Russia**

Pawel Wolski

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PhD Thesis Abstract

The study is to investigate Vladimir Lensky's characteristic depicted in the novel - in - verse by Alexander Pushkin and in *Eugene Onegin* by Pyotr Tchaikovsky along with the PhD thesis applicant's individual acting interpretation of this character in *Eugene Onegin* at The Opera in the Castle in Stettin.

It is to be demonstrated that Tchaikovsky deliberately had modernized the Pushkinian character - Lensky in his opera. Moreover, the manner used by Tchaikovsky in order to achieve it – has been determined. For this purpose it is necessary to exemplify the transformations of the nineteenth century noble Russian culture and insightful analysis of the character in both works.

Additionally, biographical information on both artists completes the characteristics of the times and artistic environment that they represented.

What establishes basis for theoretical considerations and characteristics - is the process of selecting and analyzing similarities and dissimilarities concerning Lensky in the novel – in - verse, libretto and the piano score.

The dissertation consists of two parts. The first is the recording from the premiere performance of Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin* at the Opera in the Castle in Stettin.

The second part consists of three chapters.

The first chapter concerns one of the greatest Russian writers Alexander Pushkin's times and the process of the evolution of Russian culture in the nineteenth century. It presents also the circumstances of the novel – in - verse *Eugene Onegin* creation and the figure of Lensky - the poet in the work of Pushkin.

The second chapter describes the transformation of the Russian artistic musical environment in the nineteenth century. It is indicated how the composer Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky used the novel – in - verse by Alexander Pushkin to create not only the most recognizable, but also the most frequently performed Russian operas: *Eugene Onegin*.

Furthermore, the process of adaptation of Pushkin's novel – in - verse on the libretto of the opera *Eugene Onegin* is identified. Based on the example of one of the main character, there has been made an attempt to portray, that the authors of the libretto, Tchaikovsky and Konstantin Shilovsky, adapting the novel – in - verse had made a lot of changes in the original version. Regarded this, the poet Vladimir Lensky was outlined with a new meaning. In addition, specific literary and musical examples show the modifications of the original work in order to achieve the intended purpose of art.

The third chapter depicts comparative analysis of the characteristics of the hero Vladimir Lensky in both artists' works. It is to be proved, that the composer Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky greatly widen and deepen the Pushkin's original (comparing Lensky in each of the considered works) by giving him a number of features, which forced a different reception of this character. This chapter describes also the implementation of the opera *Eugene Onegin* at the Opera in the Castle in Stettin, which represents individual characteristics of the author's performance of Lensky. Furthermore, a process of building the character in opera performance is presented. This process is the result of experiences, concepts and ideas of creators amalgamated with an individual approach of the author's dissertation to the subject.