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Perceptions of Homosexuality in

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## Tchaikovsky Criticism

**Context: Journal of Music Research**

**Issue 4 (Summer 1992 - 1993)**

**Smith, Nigel**

**Abstract:** The article reviews existing Tchaikovsky criticism to determine the extent to which critics' knowledge of the composer's sexuality affected their interpretation and evaluation of his music. The focus is on critics' perceptions of homosexuality in

Tchaikovsky's work. Social prejudice against homosexuality gave rise to the myth of Tchaikovsky as a disturbed and lonely composer. It is argued that critics' personal prejudice is often disguised as aesthetic concern and influences their value judgments of musical compositions.



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