

# QUEEN'S QORNER

## PLAY IT WITH FLOWERS

Flowers have long provided inspiration for artists ranging from legendary painters, like Claude Monet, to fashion designers, such as Christian Dior. Considered universally beautiful, this botanical inspiration is usually expressed in a visual form; however, with their bright colors and unique designs, as well as the feelings they evoke, flowers are equally inspiring musically. The choice of arrangement can signify the occasion – flowers can bring happiness and also mark times of solemnity in the same way that music does.

Many famous musicians have used flowers as a focal point for lyrics or compositions. For as long as people have been writing songs, they have been using flowers as metaphors, props and symbols for life, love and death. **One of the most famous classical pieces inspired by blooms is Tchaikovsky's Waltz of the Flowers, which you can fully appreciate each December in George Balanchine's adaptation of the Russian master's ballet THE NUTCRACKER.**



Over the years, countless songs have been composed about daisies, tulips and other beautiful flowers; however, not all of them are created equal. So, which flower do you think is the most popular, featuring most frequently in pop and rock songs? **Well, unsurprisingly there are more songs about roses than any other flower, with an estimate of around 62% of all “flower” songs being centered on roses.** Think “Roses Are Red” by Bobby Vinton; “The Rose” by Bette Midler; “Every Rose Has Its Thorn” by Poison; and Seal’s Grammy-winning song, “Kiss from a Rose.”

It seems nature still plays a crucial role in the creative process we use to understand and explain our existence and the world around us. Flowers are among the most radiant things in life and if we take a moment to truly stop and smell the flowers, we are bound to expand our understanding of what we love – adding depth to the music we enjoy.

Sources: classicfm.com, percussionplay.com, wikipedia.org