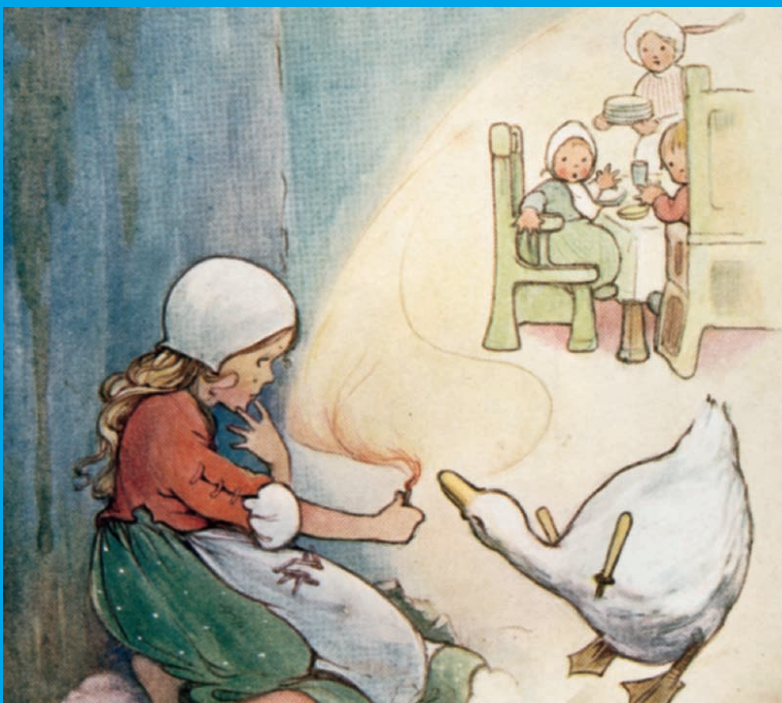


ANDERSEN'S FAIRY TALES

The Emperor's New Clothes • The Ugly Duckling
The Little Match Girl • Big Claus and Little Claus and many more

Read by **Erica Johns**

JUNIOR
CLASSICS



1	The Emperor's New Clothes	6:30
2	The Emperor goes to see his new clothes	6:04
3	The Tinderbox	7:56
4	The Soldier goes to town	5:10
5	The dog fetches the princess	5:58
6	The Travelling Companion	7:30
7	John meets his Travelling Companion	7:51
8	John continues his travels	8:52
9	The princess meets John	5:19
10	The ogre on his throne	8:33
11	John answers the third question	6:06
12	The Ugly Duckling	5:53
13	The first lessons	6:55
14	The Ugly Duckling looks for a home	6:37
15	The Ugly Duckling sees the swans	7:47
16	The Little Match Girl	7:46
17	The Swineherd	5:30
18	The Princess meets the swineherd	7:13
19	Big Claus and Little Claus	3:12
20	Little Claus arrives at the farm	9:04
21	Little Claus gets more money	4:21
22	The dead grandmother	6:43
23	Big Claus takes Little Claus to the river	7:43

Total time: 2:34:51

ANDERSEN'S FAIRY TALES

As a child, Hans Christian Andersen had the kind of impoverished background that we find in so many of his stories. Born in 1805 in Odense, Denmark, he was the son of a shoemaker. His father's death when he was nine forced him to curtail his education. He worked in a factory while going to school, but was drawn to the stage from an early age. While still a teenager, he ran away to Copenhagen where he joined a theatre as an odd-job boy, hoping that he would become an actor. He was singled out for special support by one of the directors of the theatre and went back to school and eventually, in 1828, to the University of Copenhagen.

He began writing novels and plays with varied success. But it was with his fairy tales that he was to make his name. The first collection, **Tales Told for Children**, was published in 1835, and included *Big Claus and Little Claus* and *The Tinder Box*. Other collections (one titled **A Picture Book Without Pictures**) appeared in the following years as their popularity grew and Andersen himself became more confident in the genre.

Their appeal lay in his particular ability to

tell a story which, while it may have a strong element of fantasy, always showed its characters responding with real human feelings. This, in conjunction with his use of colloquial language, created a reality that was missing in the established formal traditions of storytelling for children. Many of the stories had a sad or poignant element – reflecting Andersen's own sad life as a child. He always felt himself an outcast.

He was a prolific writer – other works include travel books, poems and a number of autobiographies. However, he will always be principally remembered for his fairy tales which have appealed to successive generations since his death in Copenhagen in 1875.

Notes by Nicolas Soames

The music on this recording is taken from the NAXOS catalogue

TCHAIKOVSKY NUTCRACKER/SWAN LAKE Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra/Michael Halász	8.550050
DELIBES THE BEST OF FRENCH BALLET COPPELIA/SYLVIA/LA SOURCE/LE ROI S'AMUSE/KASSYA CSR Symphony Orchestra (Bratislava), Ondrej Lenárd	8.550080
RIMSKY KORSAKOV SUITE "THE SNOW MAIDEN" CSR Symphony Orchestra, Donald Johanos	8.550486
ADAM GISELLE; WEBER INVITATION TO THE DANCE FAUST GOUNOD; DELIBES LAKMÉ CSR Symphony Orchestra (Bratislava), Ondrej Lenárd	8.550081

Cover picture: The Little Match Girl, by Mabel Lucie Attwell

ANDERSEN'S FAIRY TALES

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The world of Hans Christian Andersen is seen through the eyes of children. There is the every-day wonder of an ugly duckling being transformed into a swan; the puffed-up Emperor being fooled by his own importance; the tender tragedy of a little match girl; the upright honesty of John rewarded by his travelling companion.

By bringing true feelings to these stories, Andersen's tales have become part of universal folk lore.



Erica Johns trained in singing and drama at the Guildhall School of Music. After an early career in opera she concentrated on theatre and musicals. Following a break of 15 years to raise a family, she returned to an active stage career, performing and touring in a range of work, from *Oliver* and *The Sound of Music* to *The Nurse in Romeo and Juliet*.

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Total time
2:34:51

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