

**The Nutcracker Suite is a recording by American guitarist Tim Sparks, released in 1993.[1] It consists of both an adaptation for acoustic guitar of Tchaikovsky's suite from his ballet The Nutcracker and the Balkan Dreams Suite, a suite of songs based on melodies and ideas of Béla Bartók. Sparks won the 1993 National Fingerstyle Guitar Championship playing his solo guitar arrangement of Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker Suite".[2]**

### **Reception**

**A review of the album in Classical Guitar Magazine stated: "After listening to the CD, I must admit that Sparks catches the essence of the music in a wonderful way. For the advanced player, this is an excellent edition to reap the rewards of the Nutcracker Suite."**

**Guitar Player called it "An exhilarating, odd-meter minefield inspired by Near Eastern music. An important recording from a gifted composer, arranger and performer."**

### **Track listing**

**(P.I. Tchaikovsky/arr. Tim Sparks)**

- 1. "Overture" – 2:10**
- 2. "March of the Toy Soldiers" – 2:12**
- 3. "Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy" – 1:57**
- 4. "Cossack Dance" – 1:22**
- 5. "Arabian Dance" – 2:41**
- 6. "Chinese Dance" – 1:15**
- 7. "Dance of the Reed Pipes" – 2:50**
- 8. "Waltz of the Flowers" – 6:11**

**Balkan Dreams Suite (trad. arr. Tim Sparks)**

- 1. "Oniro/Dimineatsa Dupa Nunta" – 3:09**
- 2. "Samiotisa" – 2:33**
- 3. "Tatavliano Hasapiko" – 2:35**
- 4. "Melek N'ty Ubana" – 4:06**
- 5. "The Blues on Bartok Street" (Tim Sparks) – 3:25**

### **Personnel**

**-Tim Sparks – acoustic guitar, requinto**

### **Production notes**

**-Produced by Tim Sparks**

**-Engineered, mixed and mastered by Jay M. Fleming**