There's not enough art in our schools.

No wonder people say “gesundheit” when you say “Tchaikovsky.”

If one were to make a quick list of the world’s favorite composers, despite his relatively recent vintage, Peter Ilyitch Tchaikovsky would be on it. After all, he did compose Swan Lake, which is perhaps the most famous ballet of all time. And there can’t be more than a handful of ballet companies that don’t perform The Nutcracker every Christmas.

Indeed, this great Romantic composer should be as immortalized. As a young man, he pursued a career in music on enormous personal risk and against his own father’s advice. His mild temperament combined with his tendency to work too hard led him with insomnia, debilitating headaches and hallucinations. On top of that, Tchaikovsky’s composition teacher never liked his work, even after he became world famous. Serbians like those could have finished a lesser man. Instead, they informed his work, which remains some of the best loved in history. Yet some kids will still confuse Tchaikovsky with a nasal spray.

Why? Because the arts are slowly but surely being eliminated from today’s schools, even though a majority of the parents believe music and drama and dance and art make their children better students and better people.

To help reverse this disturbing trend, or for more information about all the many benefits of arts education, visit us at AmericansForTheArts.org. Or else Tchaikovsky could seem like just another casualty of allergy season.

Art. Ask for more.

For more information about the importance of arts education, please contact www.AmericansForTheArts.org.