

## Contents

<i>Preface</i>	page vii
<i>Chronology</i>	x
<i>A note on translations and transliteration</i>	xiii
<b>Chapter 1 Life</b>	1
Childhood and youth	3
Medicine and literature	5
Sakhalin	9
Country life	11
The Moscow Art Theatre	13
Last years	15
<b>Chapter 2 Chekhov in context</b>	17
Land and people	18
Russia and the West	20
Reform and reaction	21
The structure of society	22
The peasants	25
Literary heritage	26
The birth of a modern theatre	30
<b>Chapter 3 Early stories</b>	34
Rank reverence and social satire	35
Comic stories and jokes	37
Stories of children	40
Sympathy with the downtrodden	45
Stories of women, marriage, and adultery	49
“The Steppe”	54

vi	<i>Contents</i>	
	<b>Chapter 4 Early plays</b>	58
	Dramatic sketches and monologues	58
	Vaudevilles	61
	<i>Platonov</i>	67
	<i>Ivanov</i>	69
	<i>The Wood Demon</i>	71
	<b>Chapter 5 Later stories</b>	75
	“A Boring Story”	76
	“The Grasshopper”	80
	“Ward No. 6”	83
	“The Black Monk”	86
	“The Student”	89
	“The House with the Mezzanine”	90
	“My Life”	92
	“The Little Trilogy”	95
	“The Lady with the Little Dog”	99
	“In the Ravine”	102
	“The Bishop”	105
	“The Fiancée”	106
	<b>Chapter 6 Later plays</b>	109
	<i>The Seagull</i>	109
	<i>Uncle Vanya</i>	124
	<i>Three Sisters</i>	135
	<i>The Cherry Orchard</i>	148
	<b>Chapter 7 Reception</b>	162
	Chekhov in his lifetime	162
	Chekhov’s emergence abroad	165
	The Soviet era	167
	Chekhov on the world stage	170
	Postmodern Chekhov	173
	<i>Notes</i>	176
	<i>Guide to further reading</i>	185
	<i>Index</i>	188