

GMS Chamber Music Concert Program Notes

February 21, 2024

7 p.m.

March from the Overture to “Occasional Oratorio” – G.F. Handel (1685 – 1759)

George Frederic Handel was a German-British composer famous for his operas, oratorios, anthems, and organ concertos. His most famous pieces include; Messiah's ‘Hallelujah’ Chorus (1741), Water Music (1717), and Royal Fireworks (1749). This specific piece is unique among his other pieces, which he labelled “oratorio” in that it does not tell a story or tale, contain elements of drama, but was to be played as a “defiant” and “patriotic” piece.

This oratorio is a picturesque, dynamic piece with idyllic elements to touch the soul. It really is a spectacular piece that reminds me of a victorious feat being conquered, or soaring through the air smoothly with the birds.

Cavatina – W.A. Mozart

No program notes were provided for this performance.

“Spring” from The Four Seasons – Antonio Vivaldi (1678 – 1741)

Antonio Vivaldi was an Italian composer. During his life he composed nearly 800 songs, with more than 50 vocal songs and over 500 instrumentals. He was born March 4, 1678, in Venice, Italy and died July 28, 1741. *Spring* was a song he composed as part of a 4-part series called “The Four Seasons”. *Spring* is the first song of the series, and was written in 1723, 18 years before Vivaldi's death.

Spring is an upbeat song, representing the joy of it warming back up. The piece the saxophone trio is playing is only the first movement of the song. There is three parts, in a fast, slow, and fast again format. This part is meant to sound like a birdsong, followed by a spring storm. By the end of this section, the storm has receded and the piece is ready to flow towards the second part. The overall feeling of this piece is a hopeful one.

Ode to Joy – Ludwig Van Beethoven

Ludwig van Beethoven born in Bonn he was taught by his father Johann van Beethoven and later by Christian Gottlob Neefe. His first major orchestral work, the first symphony, premiered in 1800, and his first set of string quartets was published in 1801. Beethoven left Bonn for Vienna in November 1792 rumors of war spilling out in France shortly after departing, Beethoven learned that his father had died.

Beethoven went on and he soon had his very own Beethoven pianos and became a famous songwriter and player. Ode to joy is best known for its use by Ludwig van Beethoven in the

final (fourth) movement of his ninth symphony, completed in 1824. Beethoven text is not entirely on Schiller's poem, and it introduces a few new sections.

The music is like a happy, motivational, and fast musical song. Ode to joy might also feel a bit jumpy it can sometimes go from one note to another making a fast tune. Ode to joy might also sound sweet and beautiful but it also gets intense and strong. The song might also make you feel passionate and confident. This song with all the parts together brings a sweet beautiful sound like nature sometimes it might sound like a sunset and at other times thunder.

Valse "Au Printemps" – Leonard B. Smith

Leonard B. Smith was born on September 5th 1915. Leonard began to study cornet at the age of eight. He would go on to study for the next 3 years. He was sent to Ernest William College and continued to study for the next 10 years. Leonard career was based on playing the cornet and trumpet. Leonard became the principal cornet soloist with the Gold Man from 1936 to 1941.

I think Valse "Au Printemps" sounds peaceful and French I could imagine sitting in front of the Eiffel Tower in Paris and have this song playing in the background.

Ancient Ayre – John Barrett

No program notes were provided for this performance.

March from the Overture to "The Occasional Oratorio" – G.F. Handel (1685 – 1759)

March From The Overture To "The Occasional Oratorio" was written by George Frideric Handel in 1746. Handel is mainly famous for his operas but also wrote most of the famous oratorios. Handel died 13 years after writing this piece of music. The March From The Overture To "The Occasional Oratorio" is a four-part piece made for trumpets, trombones, tubas, and drums.

This piece is not made to tell a story, instead it is made as a defiant rallying piece. This piece of music is made for a wonderful occasion. It sounds joyful and has a catchy rhythm that the audience will love. It's most normally used for joyful events such as wedding ceremonies or a church service.

Cavatina – W.A. Mozart (1756 – 1791)

Mozart was born in January 27 1756. Mozart was and still is one of the most famous musicians of our time. As a young boy he was extremely talented music wise and could make music by the age 20.

Cavatina is a little song which is literally what it means in Italian. Cavatina has a lot of changes where it goes from soft to big and big the small. It is very nice to listen to and soothing.

La Boufonne – Francois Couperin

Francois Couperin was a well known French Baroque composer. He lived in Paris, France and died on September 11th, 1733. He was inspired to start writing music by Arcangelo Corelli, an Italian composer. In his time he wrote over 200 pieces of music, and most were Harpsichord music pieces. They were all Baroque style pieces.

As an audience member, you may hear it as an older piece. They may not have heard it before, due to it not being one of his popular pieces. The song is in G Major, and has an accompaniment to go with it.

The Calypso Kid – Dean Sorenson

The Calypso Kid was written by Dean Sorenson in 1963. Dean Sorenson is a Yamaha performing trombonist educator. He is also a highly sought-after composer. The Calypso Kid is a piece of jazz music, and dates back to the 19th century.

To the audience this piece is supposed to feel jazzy and have a fun but a catchy rhythm. It is supposed to have an easy sounding rhythm. It also has a fun flowing rhythm. Overall, it will sound like a fun and easy jazz piece.

Etude No. 2

No program notes were provided for this performance.

Theme from Piano Sonata – W.A. Mozart (1756 – 1791)

Mozart was born in January 27 1756. Mozart was and still is one of the most famous musicians of our time. As a young boy he was extremely talented music wise and could make music by the age 20.

Although various composers in the 17th century had written keyboard pieces which they entitled Sonata, it was only in the classical era, when the piano displaced the earlier harpsichord and sonata form rose to prominence as a principle of musical composition, that the term piano sonata acquired a definite meaning.

The Sleigh Ride – Leopold Mozart

No program notes were provided for this performance.

The Victors – Louis Elbel

Louis Elbel was an active concert pianist presenting recitals and piano-lecture recitals. He performed with the Theodore Thomas Orchestra in 1907. In addition to his The Victors march, Elbel composed several piano pieces, songs, and works for small orchestra. Michigan's famous fight song, The Victors, was written in November of 1898. Louis Elbel, a music student at the University, wrote the words and the music in celebration of a last minute Michigan

This is a joyous, triumphant piece that would be used as a winning melody. The piece starts off softly, the notes sounding delicate, as the music begins to build, each part adding its own layer to the composition. This courageous piece takes the listener on a journey, evoking ranges of victorious emotions.

Sailor's Song – Edvard Grieg

Edvard was a famous composer in the 1890s and he founded this love for music at a concert in France. Edvard wrote sailor's song (the song I will play for you today), hall of the mountain king and morning mood. He wrote sailor's song for the rooted national folk tradition of Norway. Edvard passed away on September fourth 1907.

Sailor's Song was wrote to symbolize the meaning of a conversation between the ghost of a man killed in battle and his friend who is still alive. This song is like a day out at sea with your friends and just having fun singing songs and going fishing.

Cantilena – Forrest L. Buchtel

Forrest L. Buchtel was born on December 9th, 1899 in St. Edward, Boone, Nebraska, United States. He attended Vandercook College of music, and received an Honorary Doctorate, an M.M, and a B.M.E. He also received an M.S from Northwestern University, as well as an A.B from Simpson College in 1921. He then went on to teach at Amundsen and Land Technical High Schools Chicago. He retired from Vandercook College of Music in 1985.

He became a Director of Bands at Emporia State University in 1925. He created many musical pieces and gave so much to schools music programs for a good education, artistic ability, and gave students music on various proficiency levels. Merle Evans, a director of the Barnum and Bailey Ringling Bros, used Buchtel's music specifically for his band.

There are some really fun and fast parts throughout the piece and some range work throughout. The ending is a sort of repetition from the beginning, and concludes the piece well.

Solo – Keegan Kops

No program notes were provided for this performance.

Waltz –

No program notes were provided for this performance.

Bauern Tanz – Nebojsa Jovan Zivkovic (b. 1962)

Nebojsa Jovan Zivkovic was born in July 5, 1962 in Sermska Mitrovica, and surprisingly he is still alive. Nebojsa is German composer and musicologist. He has a masters degree in composition, music theory, and percussion in Mannheim and in Stuttgart, Germany. He toured in the U.S, Japan, Taiwan, Korea, Latin America, Russia and Scandinavian countries. Zivkovic played among other with Stuttgart Philharmonic, Munich Symphonic, Bochum Philharmonic, Austrian Chamber Symphony, Hannover Radio Symphony, Bielefeld Philharmonic, Belgrade Philharmonic, National Orchestra of Costa Rica, Turku Philharmonic Orchestra Lithuanian State Symphony Orchestra, and many more. Also he published his last album in the 2000's. In his lifetime he made 31 percussion books with a ton of solos in them.

In this particular song, Bauern Tanz, he likes to make it fun and child like. The first time I heard it I thought of how young it seemed to me, like an old memory or a children's game. It will start at a medium volume and then come to life like how children do.

Reverie – P.I. Tchaikovsky (1840 – 1893)

Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky, born April 25 1840, Votkinsk, Russia. He died October 25 1893. Peter was the most popular Russian composer of all time. In his lifetime he made 7 symphonies, 11 operas, 3 ballets, 5 suites, 3 piano concertos, a violin orchestra, 11 overtures, 3 overtures, 8 single movement programmatic orchestral, 4 cantatas, 20 choral works, 3 string quartets, a string sextet, and more than 100 songs and piano pieces.

[I] loved his music, because, as some would say it's magical, heroic, and tragic. It's very exotic and especially this piece Reverie, it's interesting. It is very slow at a tempo of 72 beats per minute. But at this slow tempo it makes the piece more beautiful and elegant. Peter is known for His open-hearted melodies, impressive harmonies, and colorful music.

Theme from Ninth Symphony – Ludwig van Beethoven (1770 – 1827)

Ludwig Van Beethoven was born in Bonn, Germany. December 17, 1770. He died March 26, 1827 at age 56. This arrangement is by G. E. Holmes who was born in Baraboo, Wisconsin. February 14, 1873. He died February 10, 1945, at 71 years old.

I feel like our piece is the kind of song that a king would walk out on. Our music kind of sounds graceful and royalty like. Our song is kind of at a slower tempo. I really like how the repeat makes the song a little longer but still keeping it short and sweet.

Greensleeves – Traditional arr. Bruce Pearson

The composer of, "GREENSLEEVES" is unknown. It is said that in the song it does seem to refer to, "a Lady Greensleeves". It is also said that it was written in the 16th century, and even back to the late 15th century. There are two main types of versions of the song. Which one of the two is a simple and classical arrangement, the second is a "elaborate folk fingerstyle" which is played with an, "improvised feel".

In which you will hear from this song will be a mixture of jazz and a classical rhythm of music. Some may say that this song is deemed to be relaxing or calming. You may hear few harmony notes within the piece. Others may think of this as the, "elaborate folk fingerstyle" feel of the versions. And may catch some improvisation from the song.

Menuet – W.A. Mozart (1756 – 1791)

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born on January 27, 1756 in Salzburg, Austria. From a very young age, Mozart showed skills on many musical instruments such as keyboard and violin. By the age of 5 Mozart was already performing and composing. By 17 he was a musician in the Salzburg Court, wanting a better position he left and went on to travel across Europe. During his final years he composed many well known symphonies, operas, and concertos. At the young age of 35 Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart died of unknown causes.

Mozart was one of the first to use a chromatic harmony in music. One of Mozart's gifts was being able to pick good things out from others music and incorporate it into his own. His music was simple but graceful, and always filled with emotion. His music also had a clarity, balance, and transparency. Many central traits of classical music were present in Mozart's music. To this day Mozart is one of the most popular composers.