

NOTES ON BASIC REPERTOIRE

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART (1756-1791)

Single pieces you may find: "Eine Klleine Nachtmusic" (for string orchestra), the "Clarinet Quintet in A", Piano Concertos - (any you may have). - A collection with the "Concerto in C Major, K467".

SYMPHONIES:

#29, the late ones #39, #40 and #41.

Piano Sonatas:

a collection which includes Sonata in A, K.331.

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1796):

SYMPHONIES:

principally #s - 1,3 (the 'Eroica' - has a good historical story),5 (the 'Fate' with the famous theme),6 (the 'Pastoral'),7,9 (with the 'Ode to Joy' from their books.

Piano Sonatas (any collection which looks interesting to you):

OTHER Pieces/composers to look for (explanations later):

Before Mozart/Beethoven:::

"The Renaissance Period" (1500s)

composers:

Josquin Des Pres, Carlo Guesualdo, Palestrina. Any music which looks good -- I recommend **Palestrina**, his music is very beautiful (big vocal textures).

"Late renaissance - Early Baroque" (1600s)

Claudio Monteverdi (1567-1643) (very important composer, first opera, etc.)

'Venetian Vesper Music'.

"The Baroque Period" (mid 1600s - mid 1700s)

Composers: J.S.Bach, Antonio Vivaldi, George Friedrich Handel.

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Piano pieces: 'The Well-Tempered Clavier'. (Inventions and Sinfonias), Organ Preludes.

Handel - "The Messiah".

Vivaldi "The Four Seasons".

After Mozart/Beethoven::

"The Romantic Period" - called so because of the 'imaginative aspect' -- the use of mythology and story... the development of 'programatic pieces' which tell stories... composers: Brahms (a classicist within the Romantic period), Wagner, Mahler, Liszt, Chopin, von Weber...

Pieces:

Johannes Brahms - Symphonies (#2), his piano concertos and his Violin Concerto.

Franz Liszt - 'Les Prelude' for orchestra. Any collection of piano pieces.

Chopin - Pieces for Piano - "Nocturnes", "Waltzes" --- you may find a combination Chopin/Liszt CD.

You can try a big Wagner piece -- 'Tristan and Isolde' is good to include, sometimes there are collections of 'overtures' and such which includes several examples...

Moving in the Twentieth century' - The "Post-Romantic Period" - here we find a variety of influences and composers; Tschaikovsky (whose music you probably already have and/or know well enough,

Richard Strauss (german) and also the 'Impressionists' - which correspond with the painter impressionists Monet and his ilk. main composers; **Claude Debussy** (1862-1918) and Maurice Ravel (1875-1937) and Eric Satie. **THESE Are Particularly good ones to get** any time.

Debussy - ORCHESTRA pieces. "**Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun**" (often in French) - this piece has great historic significance. "Nocturnes". "La Mer" (the Ocean).
PIANO MUSIC: "Preludes".

Ravel - ORCHESTRA pieces. **Pavan pour une Infante Defunte** (pavan for a dead princess -- very beautiful and famous piece). "Daphnis et Chloe". The "String Quartet in F" is a good one.

IGOR STRAVINSKY (1882-1971)

One of the most important composers in history. In his work he encompassed most styles of the 20th century, so his work is very useful in study. He influenced music of many kinds, from concert music to film music and even television. Debussy was a chief influence on his early work, as were the Russian nationalists. Stravinsky moved to the USA in the 40s and lived here for many years. It is good to play Debussy's "Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun" and, at some close-by later point Stravinsky's:

"Firebird Suite" - for Orchestra. It has a great story (the famous Russian fairy tale) which you should be able to glean simply from the CD cover.

This piece is from his early period (1910-1914) when he composed an incredible amount of music --- three ballets -- 'The Firebird', 'Petroushka' (another good to get, it has a great story you can follow about a clown, they are often on the same CD together) and he also composed at this time one of the most famous and

influential piece in music history 'Le Sacre du Printemps' (The Rite of Spring). This work is very powerful and I would hold off on it for the young ones... but the other two are perfect.

Other works by Stravinsky.

"L'Histoire du Soldat (The Soldiers Tale" -- very fun piece... for chamber ensemble and actors... they tell the story of the Soldier being tempted by the devil and all that... I like the old recording by the Boston Chamber players and Tom Courtenay and Ron Moody if you can still get it...

"Symphony of Psalms" - one of his most famous... a serious and religious piece.

"Orpheus" - a very beautiful ballet piece telling the ancient Greek tale.

"Symphony in Three Movements" - historically significant in that he wrote it during W.W.II and in it he tells the tale of the Allies' victory... you can really hear the influence he had on movie music hear. In fact, since there are many movie composers who have actually 'stole' his music directly in many instances, you already heard some of his music without knowing it.

A possible timeline could be (for after Mozart/Beethoven) -- Brahms' 'Symphony #2', Wagner's "Tristan und Isolde", Debussy's "Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun", Stravinsky's "Firebird Suite", Bela Bartok's 'Concerto for Orchestra', Donald Erb's "Ritual Observances".... just giving ideas...

OTHER examples to search out.

the music of **Bela Bartok** (hungarian composer 1881-1945). very important composer. In fact he has a collection of learning books (called **Mikrokosmos** which you can also find recordings of) which we will use in our program, so it's good to play some of his music. I would recommend the "Violin Concerto", the Dance Suite, and his wonderful "**Concerto for Orchestra**". In his work you will hear how he preserved the language of his people in his work. He

was also a famous 'ethnomusicologist' -- one of the first. He went into the hills and ancient parts of Hungary and that part of the world (Bulgaria, for example) and recorded the folk music. He incorporated this 'root-music' into his own in a highly evolved fashion.

The Music of **Donald Erb** - a composer only recently died. It is good to remember that all composers wrote modern music and most of it was not accepted by the folk of the time. It sometimes takes a while for the new languages to be absorbed and understood. Erb has been one America's foremost composers, was one of my main teachers -- I recommend his big colorful orchestra pieces (the Brass Concerto, Ritual Observances, Evensong, the Cello Concerto - anything you may run into).

Various:

Aaron Copland (Appalachian Spring), Georgi Ligeti (Lux Aeterna, Atmospheres -- this is some of the music they used in 2001 a Space Odyssey), Charles Ives (Central Park in the Dark -- based on sounds he heard as he sat in the park - in the evening early last century), John Corigliano - many works for films.... ETC. --

I always recommend the original Fantasia movie which has some of this stuff on it.