

The final rondo, Allegro vivace assai, begins with the orchestra sounding a joyous theme. After a short cadenza the piano joins in and elaborates. A “call and response” style is apparent with soloist and orchestra. The main theme finally reappears and in an upward rush of scales the movement ends on a triumphant note.

Besides the Swedish film, the music from this concerto has been used in “The Spy who Loved Me”(1977), “Regarding Henry” (1991), “Silent Fall” (1994), and “Superman Returns” (2006).

Program Notes by Annette Albright

Program Notes

July 24, 2011

Overture to “The Barber of Seville”

Gioachino Rossini

The Barber of Seville is an opera buffa in two acts, the libretto based on a play by Pierre Beaumarchais. Premiered in Rome in 1816, it was not an immediate success. However, Rossini’s Barber has proven to be one of the greatest masterpieces of opera comedy and was the first Italian opera to be performed in the United States in 1825.

The plot revolves around Figaro, a barber and handyman, who is helping the Count Almaviva win the hand of Rosina, the ward of Dr. Bartolo. The rompish music makes this work a favorite of many films. It has been made into movie versions in 1947, 1955, 1972, and 1992. Excerpts from the opera can be heard in “Clockwork Orange,” “Hop Scotch,” and “Face Jam.”

Gabriel’s Oboe from “The Mission.”

Ennio Morricone

Ennio Morricone is considered one of the most prolific and influential film composers of this era. Born in Italy, his father played trumpet so Ennio also played trumpet. He began to compose at age six and was sent to the conservatory at age twelve. His early compositions were in the field of classical music, but in the 1950’s he began writing background music. He has composed scores for more than 500 film and TV productions, and is especially adept at scoring for westerns. He is well-known in both his native Italy and the United States as a composer and conductor. Numerous awards include two Golden Globes, two Grammys, the Polar Music Award in 2010, and nominations for five Academy Awards for best Original Score during 1979-2001.

This poignant little piece, Gabriel’s Oboe, is from the 1986 film, “The Mission.” Eighteenth century Spanish Jesuits try to protect a remote South American Indian tribe in danger from Portuguese slave traders. The film was directed by Roland Joffe and starred Robert de Niro and Jeremy Irons.

A Prayer for Peace (Avner’s Theme) from “Munich” **John Williams**

Talented composer, conductor, and pianist, John Williams is, without a doubt, one of the most recognized of film composers.

His career has spanned six decades writing for films, television, , and conducting the Boston Pops following Arthur Fiedler. He has composed the music for all but two of Steven Spielberg's films, some of which are "Superman," "Home Alone," "Indiana Jones," "E.T.," "Jurassic Park" and a host of others.

Williams has won five Academy Awards, four Golden Globes, and twenty-one Grammys. He has been nominated forty-five times for Academy Awards and was inducted into the Hollywood Bowl of Fame in 2000 and a recipient of the Kennedy Center Honors in 2004. Coming from a musical family, (his father was a studio musician), he learned piano, clarinet, trumpet and trombone. Besides studying composition privately in Los Angeles, he graduated from the Juilliard School of Music. His music is romantic and descriptive.

The Prayer for Peace was written for the 2005 Spielberg film "Munich." The film is based on the true story of the Black September aftermath, about the five men chosen to eliminate the ones responsible for that day. Starring actors were Eric Bana, Daniel Craig and Marie-Josée Croze.

Excerpts from "Schindler's List"

Williams

John Williams score for the 1993 Spielberg film, "Schindler's List" is a masterpiece of haunting simplicity. This is a unique soundtrack and a unique film. It goes without saying that "Schindler's List" would not function without Williams' music.

The film is a true story of a German manufacturer, Oskar Schindler, who secretly turns against the Nazi regime as he tries to keep his Jewish factory workers out of the concentration camps. By cunning deceit Oskar Schindler saved the lives of at least a thousand Jews. The film starred Liam Neeson, Ralph Fiennes, and Ben Kingsley.

Intermezzo from "Cavalleria Rusticana"

Pietro Mascagni

This quiet, soothing work conveys the feeling that Mascagni wanted for his opera Cavalleria Rusticana. It was used in the opening of Martin Scorsese's 1980 film "Raging Bull" and in the closing of Francis Ford Coppola's 1990 production of "The Godfather III." Pietro Mascagni was an obscure music teacher in Italy when he entered a contest for an opera composition

sponsored by the Rome publisher Sonzogno. He won first place and lifted himself from obscurity to fame and fortune. The action takes place on Easter morning and is a grim tale of illicit love, jealousy, revenge, and murder. The Intermezzo is played between the two scenes of the opera and offers the listener a respite from the dramatic version.

Dido's Lament from "Dido and Aeneas"

Henry Purcell

Dido and Aeneas is a monumental Baroque opera and Purcell's foremost and only theatrical work. It is among the first of English operas. Using a libretto by Nahum Tate, Purcell created a Prologue and three acts based on Book IV of Virgil's "Aeneid." It recounts the love story of Dido, Queen of Carthage, and her despair at the abandonment by Aeneas, a Trojan hero. This haunting lament which is heard over a descending ground bass has been used in Sally Potter's 2000 film, "The Man who Cried," starring Christina Ricci, Johnny Depp, Cate Blanchett, and John Torturro. It has also been used in the HBO miniseries "Band of Brothers." This lament is also played by a military band at the Cenotaph remembrance ceremony in London which takes place on the Sunday nearest November 11th.

Piano Concerto No. 21 in C Major (K467)

W.A. Mozart

In his usual astonishing speed, Mozart completed this beautiful concerto in 1785 just four weeks after he had finished his d minor concerto. The first movement, Allegro maestoso, opens quietly with a march figure but quickly becomes lyrical interspersed with a fanfare in the winds. The music grows in volume, then quiets as the soloist enters with an abbreviated cadenza before resolving to a trill. The usual development and recapitulation follow and there is a cadenza at the end.

The famous Andante is in three parts. The opening for muted strings, the first violins playing a dreamlike melody over repeated triplets and pizzicato in cello and bass. This is the music used for the 1967 Swedish film, "Elvira Madigan" hence the concerto has assumed this nickname. All the major melodic material is contained in this introduction. In the film this was a lazy boat-ride on a placid lake. The second part is the development followed by the recapitulation of the original melody and a short coda concludes the movement.