

Spring Piano Recital Program



Presented by
Brianne Lundberg's Music Studio

May 26, 2017

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- Scarlett* [REDACTED] *Turkish March from "The Ruins of Athens"*
by Ludwig van Beethoven
- Hayden* [REDACTED] *Finale from "Carnival of the Animals"*
by Camille Saint-Saëns
- Ruth* [REDACTED] *Ode to Joy (Ninth Symphony)*
by Ludwig van Beethoven
- Bristol* [REDACTED] *Largo from New World Symphony*
by Antonin Dvořák
- Calvin* [REDACTED] *Rondalla Aragonesa*
by Enrique Granados
- Charles* [REDACTED] *Egyptian Dance from "Samson and Delilah"*
by Camille Saint-Saëns
- Arianna* [REDACTED] *Wooden Shoe Dance from "Hansel and Gretel"*
by Engelbert Humperdinck
- John* [REDACTED] *Marche Militaire*
by Franz Schubert
- Genevieve* [REDACTED] *Minuet in G Major*
by Johann Sebastian Bach
- Adam* [REDACTED] *Polovetsian Dance*
by Aleksandr Borodin

<i>Marlene</i> [REDACTED]	<i>Habanera from "Carmen"</i> by Georges Bizet
<i>Rowan</i> [REDACTED]	<i>The Blue Danube Waltz</i> by Johann Strauss II
<i>Bruce</i> [REDACTED]	<i>March of the Toreadors from "Carmen"</i> by Georges Bizet
<i>Joseph</i> [REDACTED]	<i>Für Elise</i> by Ludwig van Beethoven
<i>Jason</i> [REDACTED]	<i>Tales from the Vienna Woods Waltz</i> by Johann Strauss II
<i>Isabella</i> [REDACTED]	<i>Rondo Alla Turca ("Turkish March")</i> by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
<i>Maxwell</i> [REDACTED]	<i>Hungarian Dance No. 5</i> by Johannes Brahms
<i>Leo</i> [REDACTED]	<i>Invention No. 1 in C Major</i> by Johann Sebastian Bach
<i>Elias</i> [REDACTED]	<i>WTC Prelude No. 1 in C Major</i> by Johann Sebastian Bach
<i>Amanda</i> [REDACTED]	<i>Sonatina in C Major</i> by Muzio Clementi
<i>Owen</i> [REDACTED]	<i>Sonata in C Major: Allegro</i> by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

~ Refreshments will be served after the program. ~

Composer Notes

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750): German composer of the Baroque era. He was a master of counterpoint with a profound understanding of harmonic progression. There are over 1000 known compositions by Bach. His influence on the music world is widespread; he has even inspired metal band Skid Row lead singer “Sebastian Bach” and the indie rock band Muse.

Key works: Well-Tempered Clavier (48 Preludes and Fugues), Goldberg Variations, the Brandenburg Concertos, Mass in B Minor, two Passions.

Fun fact: When Bach quit one composing job to accept another, his former employer was angry because he didn’t want him to leave. So he threw Bach in prison for a month.

“All one has to do is hit the right keys at the right time and the instrument plays itself.”

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827): German composer of the Classical era. A self-proclaimed “poet in sound,” he emphasized personal expression and emotion over traditional form. He elevated the scope and form of the symphony. Gradual hearing loss led to depression and isolation, but he wrote some of his most inspiring music while completely deaf. A popular story is that when going deaf, he removed the legs of his piano and pressed his ear to the floor to hear the sound vibrations.

Key works: Für Elise, Piano Sonata in F minor “Appassionata,” Symphony No. 3 “Eroica,” Symphony No. 9 “Choral – Ode to Joy,” Symphony No. 6 “Pastoral,” Moonlight Piano Sonata, Violin Concerto Op. 61.

Fun fact: Beethoven wrote his iconic Ninth symphony (“Ode to Joy”) when he was deaf.

“Music should strike fire from the heart of man, and bring tears from the eyes of woman.”

Georges Bizet (1838-1875): French composer of Romantic opera. Bizet could read music at age 4 and play piano at age 6. His opera *Carmen* is one of the most popular operas of all time. Filled with lifelike drama and impassioned music, it is about a passionate Spanish gypsy, bullfighters, smugglers, and a battle over love.

Key works: opera *Les Pêcheurs de Perles*, opera *Carmen*, Jeux D’Enfants Suite Op. 22 Duo.

Fun fact: Young Bizet was so talented that he was admitted to the Paris Conservatory at age 9 (before their minimum age).

“Ah, music! What a beautiful art! But what a wretched profession!”

Aleksandr Borodin (1833-1887): Russian nationalist composer. He belonged to a group known as “the five” or “the mighty handful,” intent on creating a distinctly Russian classical music style. Influenced by Romantic style, choral, and chamber music, he filled his compositions with orchestral color, exotic motifs, unusual harmonies, and old Russian flavor.

Key works: opera *Prince Igor* (Polovetsian dances), *In the Steppes of Central Asia*.

Fun fact: Borodin only wrote music on the side. He was first and foremost a chemist, doctor, professor, and an active advocate of women’s rights.

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897): German composer of the Romantic era with an “old-fashioned” Classical style. Brahms innovated the “developing variation,” a musical theme that was constantly reworked. This paved the way for future music writing, in which all parts of a song arise from the same theme. He was a close friend of Clara Schumann (renowned pianist) and felt the heavy weight of composing under Beethoven’s shadow.

Key Works: *A German Requiem*, *Variations* on themes by various composers, Op. 49 No. 4 *Lullaby* (“Cradle Song”), Clarinet Quintet, Hungarian Dances.

Fun fact: As a teen, Brahms contributed to his poor family’s income by performing piano tricks in bars.

“It is not hard to compose, but it is wonderfully hard to let the superfluous notes fall under the table.”

Muzio Clementi (1752-1832): Italian/English composer of the Classical era, one of the first piano virtuosos and a child prodigy. He initiated the 3-movement Sonata and was a successful performer, teacher, music director, publisher, and piano manufacturer. His epitaph reads, “The Father of the Pianoforte.” He was highly admired by Beethoven, who gave him full publishing rights to all Beethoven’s music in England.

Key Works: Over 100 classical piano sonatas/sonatinas.

Fun Fact: In 1781, he engaged in a piano duel with Mozart.

Antonín Dvořák (1841-1904): Bohemian nationalist composer. He was a versatile composer of many musical forms: symphonies, concertos, string quartets, operas, chamber music, and more. Bohemian folk music and his many travels in Europe and America strongly influenced his compositions.

Key Works: Cello concerto Op. 104, *Slavonic Dances*, Dumky Piano Trio, American String Quartet, Symphony No. 9 Op. 95 “From the New World.”

Fun Fact: Dvořák did not use actual folk tunes in his compositions but often mimicked traditional folk music style and rhythms.

“All the great musicians have borrowed from the songs of the common people.”

Enrique Granados (1867-1916): Spanish nationalist composer. He blended Spanish folk music with Romantic style for a distinctly Spanish form of art music. He and his wife died tragically from drowning when their passenger ferry was torpedoed by a German U-boat.

Key Works: opera and piano solo *Goyescas*, *Spanish Dances*, opera *María del Carmen*.

Fun Fact: *Goyescas* was inspired by the emotions conveyed in the paintings of Francisco Goya.

“I have a whole world of ideas. I am only now starting my work.”
(sadly, spoken shortly before his death)

Engelbert Humperdinck (1854-1921): German composer of Romantic opera. He discovered his original voice through children’s songs. *Hansel and Gretel* began as a few simple songs he wrote for a puppet show for his nieces. His opera *Königskinder* had the first compositional use of *Sprechstimme* or “spoken voice,” an expressionist vocal technique between speaking and singing. Humperdinck was a friend and assistant to Wagner.

Key Works: opera *Hänsel und Gretel* (“Hansel and Gretel”), opera *Königskinder* (“The King’s Children”).

Fun Fact: Humperdinck studied architecture before pursuing music.

“At first, I thought I should be a second Beethoven; presently I found that to be another Schubert would be good; then gradually, satisfied with less and less, I was resigned to be a Humperdinck.”

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791): Austrian composer of the Classical era. A true prodigy, the child Mozart performed for kings and queens all over Europe. He began composing at age 5 and wrote his first symphony at age 8. He refined the concerto and assimilated contemporary musical styles into the epitome of Classical refinement. Mozart had an astonishing level of compositional fluency across all forms and genres. He completed over 600 works in his short life.

Key Works: opera *The Marriage of Figaro*, opera *Don Giovanni*, opera *The Magic Flute*, orchestral *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*, Symphony No. 41 “Jupiter,” Requiem, symphonies, piano concertos, and sonatas.

Fun Fact: Mozart was the first major composer to attempt a “freelance” musical career.

“It is a mistake to think that the practice of my art has become easy to me.”

Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921): French nationalist composer. He was admired for his technical fluency, elegance, and clarity of form as well as imagination, charm, and melodic inspiration. After studying at the Paris Conservatory, he became a church organist and then ultimately a successful freelance composer and pianist. He loved modern music of his day but wrote his own music in a conventional classical tradition.

Key Works: opera *Samson et Dalila* (“Samson and Delilah”), *Le Carnaval des Animaux* (“Carnival of the Animals”), *Danse Macabre*.

Fun Fact: Worried that it would compromise his reputation as a serious composer, Saint-Saëns banned “The Carnival of the Animals” from all concert performances until after his death.

“One must practice slowly, then more slowly, and finally, slowly.”

Franz Schubert (1797-1828): Austrian composer of the Romantic era. His extraordinarily rich and varied musical imagination led him to compose an astonishing 1,000 works in his short 31 years of life. His music is invariably Classical in form but adopts a more hedonistic melody and spontaneous imagination. Schubert was the central figure in creating the German art-song, or Lied.

Key Works: Piano Quintet Di Forelle (“The Trout”), “Unfinished” Symphony, Symphony No. 9 “The Great,” *Die Winterreise* (“The Winter Journey”) song cycle, *Marche Militaire*.

Fun Fact: Schubert was so short and squat that his friends nicknamed him Schwammerl (“little mushroom”).

“My music is the product of my talent and my misery. And that which I have written in my greatest distress is what the world seems to like best.”

Johann Strauss II (1825-1899): Austrian composer of the Romantic era. His father was also a musician and forbade him from going into music due to the insecurity of the profession, but the younger Strauss was dedicated to music at a young age. Nicknamed the “Waltz King,” Strauss took the waltz form and gave it a Romantic style with symphonic coherence that was worthy of a concert performance.

Key Works: operetta *Die Fledermaus*, *Tales from the Vienna Woods* Waltz, *The Blue Danube Waltz*, *Tritsch-Tratsch-Polka*, *Emperor Waltz*.

Fun Fact: Even though he wrote such beautiful dance music, Strauss himself was a terrible dancer.

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