



Smithsonian Associates

## Music Inspired by the Natural World

DR. RACHEL FRANKLIN, SMITHSONIAN ASSOCIATES

### **JUNE 14    Water, Water Everywhere**

Mighty oceans, torrential rivers, glittering fountains. Watery works abound across the concert repertoire. But how can music be wet? Can a composer ever truly recreate a sense of fluid motion? Voyage through the mightiest of seascapes, Debussy's *La Mer*; marvel at Liszt's electrifying portrayal of St. Francis walking on water Liszt; shiver on the stony beaches of Britten's "Sea Interludes," and delight in Respighi's sparkling images of Rome's famous fountains. Also included are works by Smetana, Mendelssohn, and whales!

#### Works explored, media used:

Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1837: *The Hebrides overture (Fingal's Cave)*, Op. 26, 1830

- Gaetano Delogu, Czech Philharmonic

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zyZ5cHUaiBI&t=372s>

Franz Liszt, 1811-1886: *Légende S. 175 No. 2 "St. Francois de Paule marchant sur le flots"*, 1863

- Yulianna Avdeeva

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6lih59O4jdl>

Maurice Ravel, 1875-1937: *Jeux d'Eau*, 1901

- George Cziffra

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LIZRDOUQrME>

Claude Debussy, 1864-1918: *La Mer*, 1905

- Sir Georg Solti, Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Video by Gilda Tabarez.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HNSHd3sMXcM>

Debussy: La cathédrale engloutie, from Preludes Bk 1, 1910

Benjamin Britten, 1913-1976: Four Sea Interludes from *Peter Grimes*, Op. 33a, 1945

- Paavo Järvi, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VTd2aXLTA84>

Richard Wagner, 1813-1883: *Das Rheingold* Act 1: Prelude-Part I, 1854

- Georg Solti: Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wiyoLa9z1ao>

Franz Schubert, 1797-1828, Die Forelle (the Trout), D. 550, 1817

- Renée Fleming, Christoph Eschenbach

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j8Gno1Gvgwc>

Gustav Mahler, 1860-1911: *St. Anthony of Padua's Sermon to the Fish*, Des Knaben Wunderhorn 1905,

- Walton Groenroos, Leonard Bernstein, Israel Philharmonic

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6YUHarQJH8A>

Bernard Herrmann, 1911-1975: Moby Dick, 1938

- Bernard Herrmann, London Philharmonic

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pvf55tx1Yeg>

David Rothenberg plays live with humpback whales in Hawaii

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=807LSbW28Po>

Ottorino Respighi, 1879-1936: *Fountains of Rome*, 1916

- Juraj Valčuha, Frankfurt Radio Symphony

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y7SH0t54vLY>

Bedřich Smetana, 1824-1884: Má Vlast: Vltava, (The Moldau), as used in the film, "The Tree of Life" by Terrence Malick

- David Parry, London Philharmonic Orchestra

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x1a7VlxBhUQ>