



Smithsonian Associates

The Magnificence of Mozart Concertos

Dr. Rachel Franklin

Wednesday, July 31, 2024 - 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. ET

The concertos of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart number among the greatest bodies of work that exist in the Western concert music canon. He composed over 40 for a wide variety of instruments, and without his lifelong fascination with this form we would not have the mighty Romantic and modern soloistic showcases that we love today.

From vivacious early experiments to the magisterial later masterworks, Mozart's sublime invention never dimmed. We explore how he built the modern concerto form with inexhaustible creativity and shaped our contemporary expectations of virtuosity allied with expressive power.

July 31 – Mozart's Soloists

In addition to his complete mastery of the keyboard Mozart was a brilliant violinist and possessed a flawless understanding of how to compose for all other concert instruments. As well as more piano masterpieces, Franklin explores his concertos for horn, violin, flute and harp, clarinet and others.

Featured works include the Sinfonia Concertante, K. 364; Clarinet Concerto, K. 622; Flute and Harp Concerto in C major, K. 299; and horn and violin concertos.

Concerto in A, No. 23, K. 488

- Daniil Trifonov, Israel Camarata, Avner Biron
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-s68kHOnpiE>

Concerto No. 24 in C minor, K. 491

- Murray Perahia, English Chamber Orchestra, Sir Neville Mariner
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NkoEkyFPaX0>

Concerto No. 24 in C minor, K. 491

- Piotr Anderszewski, Sylvain Cambreling, Yomiuri Nippon Symphony Orchestra
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yo8j-m0Ctn8>

Robert Levin discusses Mozartian improvisation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uGRdXeH7bIc>

Concerto No. 25 in C, K. 503

- Malcolm Bilson, English Baroque Soloists, John Eliot Gardiner

Concerto No. 25 in C, K. 503

- Rachel Franklin, Washington Sinfonietta, Joel Lazar

Violin concerto no. 5 in A, K. 219 “Turkish”

- Isabelle Faust, Bernard Haitink, Boston Symphony

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9njzsnFwFxA>

Concerto for Flute and Harp, K. 299

- Emmanuel Pahud, Marie Pierre Langlamet, Claudio Abbado

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q1UTtNAUPcM>

Sinfonia concertante, K. 364 for violin and viola

- Sergei Khachatryan, violin, Candida Thompson, viola, Amsterdam Sinfonietta

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uARGjSI9ynE>

Introducing Mozart’s horn

- Roger Montgomery

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PLHC8I8RwMg>

Horn concerto no. 4 in E flat, K. 495, III. Rondo. Allegro vivace

- Hansjörg Angerer, Salzburger Hofmusik, Wolfgang Brunner

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iAB3UL4580E>

Clarinet concerto in A, K. 622

- Carlos Brito Ferreira, clarinet, Cristian Măcelaru, Romanian Chamber Orchestra

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B86uXl3qHjA>

Concerto for two Fortepianos, K. 365

- Fortepianos: Avinoam Shalev, Zvi Meniker
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r-qaHy5n_oM
- Daniel Barenboim, Vladimir Ashkenazy, English Chamber Orchestra
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9njzsnFwFxA>