



Smithsonian Associates

Musical Miniatures: The Perfect Magic of Shorter Works

Dr. Rachel Franklin

Thursday, September 12, 2024 - 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. ET

September 12 Images and stories through program music

Program music has an extra-musical inspiration that gives it a narrative quality. In the world of miniatures, that tale must be told fast. Instrumental and vocal works abound with examples such as Liszt's electrifying portrayal of *St. Francis Walking on the Waves*, the teenage Mendelssohn's *Overture to a Midsummer Night's Dream*, *In the Steppes of Central Asia* by Borodin, captivating art songs by Robert Schumann and more.

Works explored, media used:

Dmitri Shostakovich, 1906-1975

Tahiti Trot, Op. 16 (Tea for Two), 1927

- Evgeny Svetlanov, USSR State Symphony Orchestra

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tw2gQIP_sdY

Josquin des Prez, c. 1450/55-1521

El Grillo (the cricket)

- Voices of Music

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZdDjAlTa4xc>

Antonio Vivaldi, 1678-1741

The Four Seasons, Violin Concerto in F Minor, Op. 8 No. 4, RV 297 "Winter"

- Jacques Bernard, Italian Baroque Ensemble

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ecKLLeF39Ro>

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>

Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1846

Overture to a Midsummer Night's Dream, 1826

- Jane Glover, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2JRt8gCCo94>

Alexander Borodin, 1833 -1887

In the Steppes of Central Asia, 1880

- Libor Pešek, Czech National Symphony

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

Robert Schumann, 1810-1856

Im wunderschönen Monat Mai, Dichterliebe, Op. 48, no. 1, 1840

- Peter Schreier, Norman Shetler

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

Lieb' Liebchen, leg's Händchen, Liederkreis, op. 24, no. 4, 1840

- Ian Bostridge, Julius Drake

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3DCiOA2vpnQ>

Die beiden Grenadiere, Op. 49, 1840

- Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, Christophe Eschenbach

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

Maurice Ravel, 1875-1937

Le Gibet, from Gaspard de la Nuit, 1908

- Martha Argerich

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E3-kW_hqLGY

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, 1840-1893

Suite from Swan Lake, Op. 20a, Andante, 1877

- Riccardo Muti, Philadelphia Orchestra

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K6gZx9Al65k>

Edvard Grieg, 1843-1907

Peer Gynt Suite, Op. 23. In the Hall of the Mountain King, 1875

- Ragnhild Hemsing - Hardanger Fiddle, & Trondheim Soloists

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