



Gateway
Chamber Orchestra

Quintessential Mozart

October 18-19, 2015

Elegy

About the Composer

Clarence Cameron White was born in Clarksville, Tennessee in 1880, and lived until 1960. He showed musical promise at a very young age and later studied violin and composition at the Oberlin Conservatory. He is one of America's most well-known African American composers and frequently used Spirituals as the melodies for his music.



About the Music

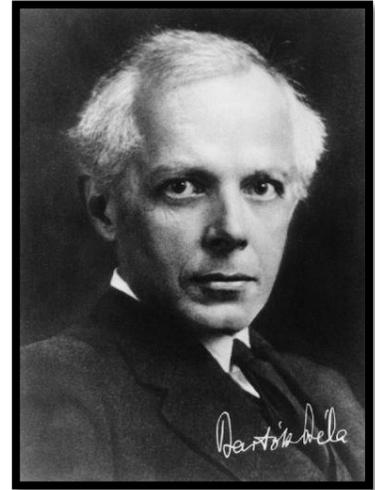
Elegy was written in 1954 for a string ensemble, and received the Benjamin Award for Tranquil Music. Elegy is included in this concert as a continuing tribute to Our City, The GCO's 2015-2016 series theme, celebrating the musical heritage of Clarksville and its citizens.

Divertimento for Strings

Youtube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h6cevpiaA5Y>

About the composer

Béla Bartók lived from 1881 to 1945. He was born in Hungary, but moved to America in 1940 to escape Hungary's involvement in World War 2. He was a piano teacher and composer, and eventually established a new form of studying music called *ethnomusicology*. An ethnomusicologist is someone who learns about and writes about music of different cultures around the world. Bartók traveled around Europe collecting folk songs and traditional songs by recording the people that he met during his travels as they sang songs from their country. Bartók would then use these folk and traditional melodies as the themes for his orchestral compositions.



About the music

Divertimento was composed for a small string ensemble in 1939. It was the last piece that Bartók composed in Hungary before he moved to America in 1940.

What is Neoclassicism

Although musicians in orchestras are commonly called *classical* musicians, the word *classical* actually refers to the time period between 1750 and 1820, and the composers who lived during those years (F.J. Haydn, W.A. Mozart, and many others, for example). After the classical era, composers began to experiment with traditional rules for composing music, and even what it means to be considered music. After a few hundred years of experimentation and what many now call "weird sounding" music, composers in the early part of the 20th century (1900s) began to return to more traditional views of music and rules for composition. Some 20th century composers even tried to make their music sound more like that of Mozart and other 18th century composers. Because of this, the music of these composers is called *Neo-classical* which means **new**-classical.

What is a Divertimento

A Divertimento is a title given to a composition that sounds a bit like a symphony, and follows a lot of the same rules for writing a symphony, but is usually written for a smaller ensemble, and is shorter in length. Divertimentos were very popular during the classical era. Since 20th century, neo-classical composers were trying to imitate classical-era composers, many early 20th century composers, like Bartók, composed their own divertimentos.

Bartók's *Divertimento* is written in three sections or movements:

- *Allegro non troppo* - not too quick
- *Molto adagio* – very slowly
- *Allegro assai* – very happy or quick

Symphony No. 40 in G Minor

YouTube Link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JTc1mDieQI8>

About the Composer

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart lived from 1756 to 1791 and spent most of his life in Vienna and Salzburg, Austria. He began composing and performing when he was just four years old and soon became a very famous musician. Although he composed mostly for operas and full orchestras, he was said to have been especially fond of wind instruments.



About the Music

Symphony No. 40 in G Minor K. 550 is one of Mozart's most well-known and frequently performed symphonies. It is sometimes called The Great G-Minor Symphony to set it apart from one of Mozart's earlier symphonies that was also written in the key of G Minor. Some musicians believe that Beethoven may have used a section of Mozart's *Symphony Number 40* as the basis for one of the melodies in his own *Symphony Number Five*.

A *Symphony* is a piece of music written for a full orchestra that is usually written in four sections of movements. The first movement is usually fast; the second slow and pretty or, sometimes, sad; the third like a fast dance or waltz; and the fourth fast and showy. G Minor refers to the key, or central note of the piece. To be in G means that the starting note or chord is G. To be in Minor means that certain notes of the scale are changed to make the piece sound sad, sneaky, or sometimes scary.

The four sections or movements of Mozart's *Symphony 40* are:

- *Molto allegro* (very happy or quick)
- *Andante* (walking speed)
- *Menuetto. Allegretto* (a fast dance)
- *Finale. Allegro assai* (very quick)