



Legato in Times of Staccato

Playlist 6 - Monday, May 11th, 2020

Curated by Music Director, Fouad Fakhouri

[Mahler: Symphony No. 1](#)

This is one of the best performances I have heard of this great work. The Chicago Symphony Orchestra, here under the direction of the great Klaus Tennstedt, has always been known for its brilliant brass sound. The power of this performance is incredible.

[Prokofiev: Symphony No. 1 "Classical Symphony"](#)

A great performance by the Munich Philharmonic Orchestra led by the Romanian conductor Sergiu Celibidache

[Vox Hominis: with George Crumb](#)

[Crumb: Black Angels](#)

Two selections relating to contemporary avant-garde American composer George Crumb: The first is a brief documentary that commemorates his 90th birthday and the second is one of his most well known works: *Black Angels*. The video includes the score to the piece. Crumb's style is uniquely his. No one can write music like he does!

[Stevie Ray Vaughan & Double Trouble: Crossfire \(Live from Austin, TX\)](#)

Born and raised in Dallas, Texas, Stevie Ray Vaughan was a brilliant talent that, unfortunately, was gone way too soon!

[Lady Gaga: Stupid Love \(Official Music Video\)](#)



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Today, Lady Gaga is one of my favorite pop singers. She is artistic and talented; a unique performer with a beautiful voice.

Three Selections by Amanda Peck

Elgar: Cello Concerto in E Minor, Op. 85

Chosen by one of our own, Amanda Peck, who says the following about her particular choice:

“Cello concertos have always been one of my favorite types of classical music, and have been some of my favorite orchestra pieces to perform as a bassist. I performed this concerto in my college orchestra and it has been a favorite ever since. The recording I've attached is legendary cellist Jaqueline du Pre with the Chicago Symphony in the 1960s.”

Smetana: Vltava (The Moldau)

Selection by Amanda Peck who says the following about her choice:

“This is one of my favorite examples of program music. You can truly envision the river, The Moldau, as it flows throughout the countryside, and Smetana's ability to illustrate the pride he feels in the beauty of his country is clear. It's also a wonderful piece to perform!”

George Gershwin: Summertime (Ella Fitzgerald)

Selection by Amanda Peck who says the following about her choice:

“Classic Song, Vocalist, and composer! What a sultry, smooth, and rich song with an amazing performer.”

Two selections by Hannah Wadley

Tchaikovsky: 1812 Overture

Selection by Hannah Wadley who says the following about her choice:



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"Although this piece is primarily associated with Independence Day, it is a beautiful piece to listen to any time. In fact, in 1880 Tchaikovsky wrote this piece as a musical portrayal of Napoleon's 'doomed' invasion of Russia and the Battle of Borodino. Another fun fact about this *Overture*; Tchaikovsky actually hated the piece. He claimed 'It will be very loud and noisy, and I've written it without affection or enthusiasm, and therefore there will be no artistic merit in it.' Oddly enough, it is now one of the most famous works in the orchestral repertory. I believe it is the kind of triumphant music we could all enjoy in a time like this."

Quantic: Transatlantic

Another selection by Hannah Wadley who says the following about her choice:

"The title may steer you away, but this is (in my opinion) a fantastic piece to listen to while you're working, cooking, cleaning, driving, hanging by the pool, throwing a dinner party, and everything in between. I would describe this piece as being in the same genre as Dave Brubeck, just a little more modern and funky. I love anything with a funky groove sound, it's my happy music"

Joe Hisaishi in Budokan

Selection by Merrie King- Iwakuni (fom Japan) who says the following about her choice:

"When my oldest daughter was little, we watched the Miyazaki film "My Neighbor Totoro", an animated movie about two young girls living in postwar rural Japan, and their dealings with playful wood spirits as they dealt with hardships. We eventually saw "Castle in the Sky" and "Kiki's Delivery Service", among others. All were beautifully written, animated, and had a musical score that was as much a part of the story as the other elements. Watching these movies in Texas, they were exotic and fascinating.

Now our family lives in rural Japan, and I have a whole new view of the Miyazaki films. There is a familiarity not only with the houses, the landscape, and the customs, but also the way the spirits are interwoven into the story. Our house sits between a beautiful public park and a mountain. When I look up at the mountain, especially around dusk, I see the thick tapestry of the trees, and it seems a very active, alive scene. Frogs croaking, birds calling, insects buzzing, branches breaking as wild boars run through; it is not hard to imagine some of the wood spirits flitting about at night.

Much of the population of Japan is elderly, and many households are multi-generational. Just like in the Miyazaki films, the elderly love and cherish children. When we moved here with our 4-year old, she was a celebrity everywhere we went. Learning to ride a bike, speaking and reading Japanese, math, and culture has all taken place for our daughter under the caring eye of this community. They treat each



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childish drawing she makes or song that she sings as a priceless treasure, and follow it with a thank you card or gift.

The Japanese are very nostalgic. I am a violinist, and have had several occasions to play for the community. Without fail, they sing along and get teary-eyed when I play “Furusato”, and I must now always end my performance with this song. I get a similar reaction when I play one of the songs from “Totoro”, except I might hear some robust singing accompanying me.

Miyazaki worked with composer Joe Hisaishi to create a fantastic world somewhere between reality and fantasy. The music is lush, playful, and nostalgic at times, and dark at others.”

*****To access the full Spotify playlist for week 6, click [here!](#)*****