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Orchestra & Chorus

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The Pulse



your guide to
Unfinished Business
Saturday, November 17, 2007
Keefe Auditorium

Charles Ives

Charles Ives (1874-1954) was an American composer who is famous because he combined popular, church, and classical music styles to form a new type of music. This new music was not very popular when it was first written. Many of his works were not performed for many years or until after he died.

What do you think it would feel like to work hard your whole life without being recognized for your work?

George, his father, was a band director. He worked with Charles on music theory. One exercise they did was to play a piece in one key and sing it in another one at the same time!

Try this at home. Have a friend play "Mary had a little lamb" on a piano or other instrument and try to sing it in a different key.



Ives at age 25

Like many musicians, Ives had more than one job. He was an organist and also sold insurance!

Think about what makes you feel so fulfilled that you'd give up other activities for it.

What did you think?

Did you enjoy these program notes? If you have suggestions or would like to talk to us about THE PULSE or our other educational programs,



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Our programming is created just for you, so your thoughts are very important to us! We look forward to hearing from you.



Requiem

A Requiem is a mass or church service that is said in honor of someone who has died. They have been written and sung since the 15th century, and the form has remained almost the same. Latin was the language of the church, so most Requiems have Latin text.

Would it be more meaningful to you to hear music sung in your own language? Why?

This work was commissioned (when a person promises to pay a composer a fee to complete a work) by a Duke who was a friend of Mozart. He was planning on having the Mass sung to honor his wife who had died.

Mozart wrote the first three parts before he died, but left only sketches of the other movements. His wife, Constanze, asked other composers to finish it so that she could receive the fee promised to her husband because they were very poor.



Amadeus is a very famous film about Mozart. If you like his music, rent this DVD so that you can see and hear what it was like to be alive in Mozart's time.

The Unanswered Question

Have you ever had someone keep asking you the same question? It can be really annoying!

When that happens, do you respond the same way each time?



That is just what this first piece is like! The trumpet keeps asking the same question and then different groups of instruments in the orchestra respond. And each time they respond, they play faster and faster.

Imagine yourself as the orchestra, and your mom is the trumpet player. She is asking you over and over again if you have cleaned up your room. Think about how you would answer her.



Would your answers sound a little like the orchestra's response to the trumpet?

Franz Schubert

Schubert (1797-1828) was also the son of a musical father. At the beginning of his career, he taught music classes at the same school as his father.

What would it be like to work in the same place as your parents everyday?

Schubert had a lot of friends. They helped him with money because he never seemed to have a full-time job, and they performed many of his compositions. Schubert, like Ives, was not famous while he was alive, but his works became very popular years later.

The 8th Symphony, also known as The Unfinished Symphony, was not the last piece he wrote. In fact, no one really knows why he didn't finish it! He wrote nine symphonies in all, just like Beethoven.

Have you ever started something that you didn't finish?



FRANZ SCHUBERT



What kept you from finishing your task?

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart



Mozart was born to Leopold and Anna Maria Pertl Mozart in a small room in Salzburg, Austria. His only sibling who survived past birth was an older sister, Maria Anna, nicknamed Nannerl. His father was a famous music teacher who started

training Mozart at age three in violin, piano, and organ. He wrote his first pieces at age four!

What were you doing when you were four years old?

Mozart's father wanted the best opportunities for his son, so he took him on trips all over the world to show off his son's talent. They went to Italy three times. He met many other famous musicians on his travels including Bach and Handel.

He died very young, at age thirty-five. Mozart was the subject of many rumors—people didn't understand his amazing talent, so they made up stories about him.

Has anyone ever told stories about you that weren't true?

