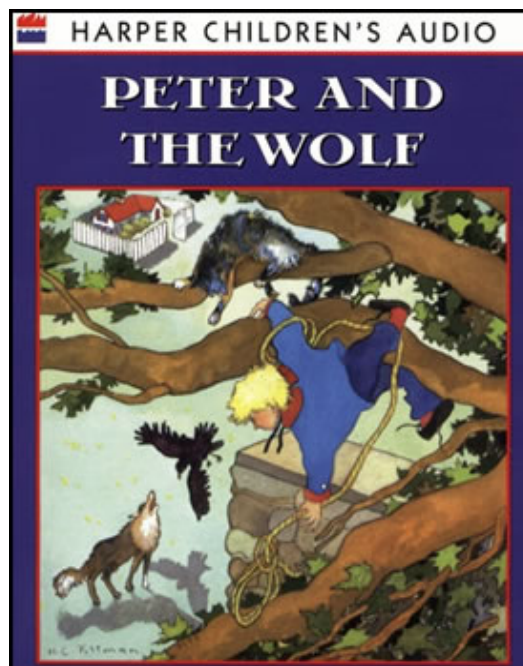




2010 Educational Concerts

January 25, 2010

Featuring the Lagniappe Theater Company



Music on the Program

Mozart – Eine Kleine Nachtmusik, mvt. 1

Arnold – Three Shanties

Banfield – Essay on Faith

Prokofiev – Peter and the Wolf

Peter and the Wolf

by Serge Prokofiev

Peter and the Wolf was written in 1936 to introduce children to the instruments of the orchestra. Each character is represented by a different instrument (or group of instruments) and a descriptive musical theme. A narrator introduces them and sets the story.

Peter and the Wolf is a fairy tale about a young boy, Peter, who lives with his grandfather in a small house in the Russian forest. The house is surrounded by a wall to keep out animals that could be dangerous. One morning Peter goes out and leaves the gate open. Needless to say, danger lurks in the form of the hungry wolf who sees Peter, a bird, a cat, and a duck.

The story ends well (though the duck is not so lucky) when Peter captures the wolf and a group of hunters help to carry it to the zoo accompanied by a triumphal march.

About the Composer

Serge Prokofiev (*Ser'-gay Pro-koh'-fee-ev*)

Dates: 1891-1953

Nationality: Russian



Prokofiev learned to play the piano at a very young age and wrote his first piece of music at six years old. Though he was born and lived in Russia, he traveled the world with his music, visiting New York, Chicago and Paris.

Prokofiev wrote music for orchestras, opera and movies. His music is often bold and sometimes humorous. He was able to take traditional Russian folk tunes and use them in non-traditional ways in his compositions.

Which Instrument Am I?

Listen to *Peter and the Wolf*. Draw a line from the character to the instrument that identifies that character.

BIRD

CLARINET



WOLF

STRINGS



CAT

FLUTE



PETER

BASSOON



GRANDFATHER

HORNS



Eine Kleine Nachtmusik

by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (*Mot'-sart*) was an unmistakable genius. His father Leopold was a composer and violinist, so Mozart grew up in the country of Austria in a musical atmosphere. At three years old, he showed an amazing ability to improvise new melodies and started composing his own music. He wrote his first symphony (a large composition for orchestra) when he was just eight years old.



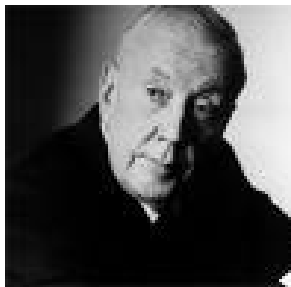
Mozart composed in all forms with equal perfection and brought each of them to a new height in the Classical era. Although he wrote many works of extremely high quality, he never seemed to make very much money. He and his wife had many financial and personal struggles and he died at just 35 years old. In those thirty-five years, he composed over 600 pieces of music.

Eine Kleine Nachtmusik (A Little Night Music) was written in 1787 for a small group of string players. This music was written to entertain guest, perhaps at a royal court in Vienna. As with all of Mozart's music, this piece has elegant melodies and is both simple-sounding and sophisticated at the same time.

Three Shanties for Woodwind Quintet

by Malcolm Arnold (1921-2006)

Malcolm Arnold was born and lived in England. In his pieces, he combines elements of classical, jazz and folk music. He has written for orchestra, solo piano, television shows and movies, winning an Academy Award in 1957 for his music in *The Bridge on the River Kwai*. He was made a knight for his service to music by Queen Elizabeth in 1993.



What is a Woodwind Quintet?

A woodwind quintet is made up of five ("quint" meaning the number five) different instruments of the orchestra: the **flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon, and French horn**. The clarinet, oboe and bassoon all produce sounds through the use of a wooden reed. Many flutes were originally made of wood (though now almost always metal) and are considered part of the "woodwind" family of instruments. The Horn, though technically a brass instrument, produces a mellow sound that blends well with the woodwinds and completes the ensemble.

Essay on Faith

by William Banfield (b. 1961)

William Banfield grew up in Detroit, Michigan and absorbed many musical styles including jazz, opera and gospel. He incorporated all of these influences in his Symphony No. 9, "Hope" written in 2004 for the Rapides Symphony.



The music of the Symphony was inspired by the words of Alexandria native author Arna Bontemps. This section of the piece entitled "Essay on Faith" is written in a beautiful, flowing style. It is one of the more "classical sounding" parts of the Symphony.

Dr. Banfield is also an accomplished author and has a new book to be released in the spring of 2010, *Cultural Codes: Making of a Black Music Philosophy*.

Some Things to Remember When Attending a Concert

1. You should refrain from talking when the music is playing (that includes whispering to your neighbor.)
2. No singing or movement to the music (except maybe tapping your toe.) Listening is an active skill that is difficult to do when doing something else.
3. Represent yourself, your teacher and your school well. Good manners is something to be proud of.
4. Go to the concert with an open mind and open ears. You might like what you hear!

What is the Rapides Symphony?



The Rapides Symphony Orchestra is a group of professional musicians from all over Louisiana and east Texas that performs several concerts a year, usually at the Coughlin-Saunders Performing Arts Center in Alexandria. Being a professional orchestra means that all of the players are paid to perform, have been highly trained (most have gone to college for music) and make spend their lives as performers and teachers of music. The size of the orchestra varies from 20-60 players, depending on the music that is performed. The Rapides Symphony is celebrating its 43rd year of presenting concerts for the enjoyment and enrichment of the people of central Louisiana.

* Some of the materials in this pamphlet were adapted from *Music Smart* by Gwen Hotchkins; Parker Publishing, 1990.