

Spring term 1 musical appreciation

The animal kingdom

Week beginning	Value	Artist/ composer/ genre	Links
11.1.20	Fairness and Justice	<p><i>Swan Lake</i> is a romantic ballet in four acts. Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky wrote the music.</p> <p><i>Swan Lake</i> is about a prince named Siegfried. He falls in love with the Swan princess, Odette. She is a swan by day, but a young woman at night. She is under a magic spell that can only be broken by a man who will make a promise to love her for all time. Siegfried makes the promise. He is tricked though by the magician who cast the spell. The ballet ends with the deaths of Siegfried and Odette.</p> <p>The ballet was first performed on 4 March 1877 in Moscow, Russia.</p> <p><i>Danse des petits cygnes</i> is a famous dance from <i>Swan Lake</i>, from the ballet's second act. Translated from French, it means "Dance of the Little Swans", also known as "Dance of the cygnets". It is very challenging because all dancers must look the same.</p> <p>The choreography was meant to show the way cygnets huddle and move together for protection. Four dancers enter the stage in a line and move across with their arms crossed in front of one another, grasping the next dancers' hands. They move sideways, doing sixteen pas de chat. Ideally the dancers move at exactly the same time. At the very end, they break their chain and try to "fly", only to drop to the ground.</p>	<p>Dance of the Cygnets (Royal Ballet)</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0GsaJWIF3ws</p>
18.1.20	Fairness and Justice	<p>"Flight of the Bumblebee" was written as a little interlude (break) in the middle of an opera written by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov. The opera was called <i>The Tale of Tsar Saltan</i>,</p>	<p>Piano version (shot like piano tiles game!)</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=22jE6FdYjxE</p>

		and was composed in 1899–1900. The music is to make you think about the chaotic and rapidly changing flying pattern of a bumblebee. It was a small extra piece of music in the opera but has actually become a really famous classical piece of music all on its own. It was written for an orchestra but lots of different versions have been made of it.	Violin and orchestra version: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vtAu7xkwNjQ Brass version: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xZO5KTJtWhE Choir version https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cuyYVm9D5sE
25.1.20	Courage	<p>In the jungle... "Mbube" (Zulu for "lion") was written in the 1920s by Solomon Linda a South African Zulu singer. He spent his weekends performing with the Evening Birds and recorded several songs, including "Mbube".</p> <p>The Weavers recorded a version with brass and string orchestra and chorus and released it as a single titled "Wimoweh", a mishearing of the original song's chorus of "<i>Uyimbube</i>", Zulu: You are a lion. Their version contained the chanting chorus "Wimoweh" and Linda's improvised melodic line. It has been covered many times but the most successful ones are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1961: The Tokens: US No. 1, US, UK No. 11 • 1982: Tight Fit: UK No. 1, This version has sold over a million copies in the UK. <p>It also appears in the Lion King</p>	<p>Original: Mbube by Solomon Linda https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NLzi7w2x_io The Weavers (1939) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=77VUYPMtWY The Tokens (1961) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OQlByoPdG6c&list=PLFrba8fhKXTePVUrD4RExnsPX1bq64ODZ&index=27 Tight fit version (1982) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WScEJKNMdgI Lion King version https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I82PFHkgY2c</p>
1.2.20	Courage	<p>The Carnival of the Animals (French: <i>Le Carnaval de Animaux</i>) is a musical composition by Camille Saint-Saëns. It is one of the best known pieces of classical music for children.</p> <p>Saint-Saëns wrote the <i>Carnival of the Animals</i> as a distraction while composing his <i>Symphony No. 3</i>. <i>Carnival</i> was performed at a small gathering of friends. Saint-Saëns did not want the general public to hear it, because he did not want to be thought of as someone who wrote jokey pieces. He wanted to be thought of as a serious composer. Just one movement was published during his lifetime: the famous Swan movement for solo cello. The rest of the work was not performed until a year after Saint-Saëns' death</p> <p>There are fourteen movements, each representing a different animal or animals.</p>	<p>Carnival of the animals https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1L993HNAa8M</p>
8.2.20	Courage	<p>The Lion King: Original Motion Picture Soundtrack is the soundtrack for the 2019 Walt Disney Pictures film <i>The Lion King</i>, an animated (but looks realistic!) remake of the 1994 animated</p>	<p>Lion King full soundtrack https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jabui9mQn-0</p>

		film. It consists of a soundtrack featuring songs from the original film written by Elton John and Tim Rice, and performed by the film's cast, as well as a new song by Beyoncé , and a score composed by the original film's composer Hans Zimmer.	
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