



South Kingstown
Community
String Orchestra

December 6 2021
7 p.m.
Concert at the Towers

We dedicate tonight's program to two founding members, Lisa Jacome and Merry Swift, who we sadly lost since our last performance.

Lisa Jacome

August 2, 1961 – October 30, 2021

Merry Swift

May 5, 1938 – December 20, 2020

Their memory lives on in our music

Meredith's nickname Merry couldn't have been more fitting because of her unmatched sense of humor and jovial outlook on life. Born in Providence in 1938, she exhibited her artistic talent from a young age when she won first place in a national children's portrait contest. Through adulthood she enjoyed pencil and pastel portraiture. She attended Warwick Veterans' High School (and was voted queen of her class) and earned a BA in art education at RISD and a Master's at RIC. She was a beloved art teacher in the North Kingstown school system. An avid tennis player, she cherished playing violin in the 1st violin section of the SKCSO.



Lisa was a talented musician whose kindness enriched those around her. Born in Newport in 1961, she graduated from Rogers High School, Bristol Community College, and Providence College. Her mother attended Providence College at the same time and the two often sat together in the same class. She was a dedicated



employee of the Fleet and Family Support Service, Naval Station Newport. Friends recall Lisa's boundless optimism and good-natured spirit. Lisa enjoyed traveling and loved playing her violin. She played in the 2nd violin section of the SKCSO.

Andante & Alla Breve From Sonata III for Two Violins	Georg Philipp Telemann arr. Mark Hellem
Symphony No. 1, K. 16 First Movement	W. A. Mozart arr. Thomas P. LaJoie III
Eine Kleine Nachtmusik, K. 525 1. Allegro 2. Romanze: Andante 3. Menuetto & Trio: Allegretto 4. Rondo: Allegro	W. A. Mozart
Sleepers, Wake	J. S. Bach arr. John Caponegro
Ode to the Plains and Wild Horses Running From <i>American Serenade</i>	Robert Kerr
Shenandoah	Traditional arr. Rick England & John Wilson
Music from <i>La La Land</i>	Justin Hurwitz arr. Robert Longfield
Villancico	arr. Robert Sieving

Violin I

Hannah Beekman
Chris Brown
Marcelline Zambuco
Tom Langlois
Gail Broome
Ken Abrams
Gayle LaPlante
George Seavey
Kevin Vidmar

Violin II

Stephen Beekman
Margie Flanders
Mary Moroney
Bianca Volles
David Lelli
Sue Cornacchia
Mary Ann Jencks

Viola

Eric Martin
Carolyn Payne
Christian Marks

Cello

Rozanne Fuller
Nate Blaser
Max Diem
Beverly Berstein
Lucienne Andrew
Nancy Roposa

Georg Philipp Telemann

March 14 1681 – June 25 1767

Born in Magdeburg, Germany

Telemann was a self-taught German composer whose work is considered a bridge between the late Baroque and early Classical styles. Against his family's wishes he became a composer; he entered the University of Leipzig to study law but ended up studying music. From there, he continued to prosper in the music scene, serving as musical director of five main churches in Hamburg, Germany.

He taught himself how to play many instruments and was good friends with Bach and Handel. His works – which included more than 3000 compositions – were popular all throughout Europe, not just Germany.

Unfortunately his good luck in music didn't extend to his marriages; his first wife died before their second anniversary and his second wife cheated on him and gambled all his money away.

Featured composition: Andante & Alla Breve

This is a selection from Telemann's Sonata III. Originally written for two violins and piano, it features two contrasting movements of Baroque string music.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

January 17 1756 – December 5 1791

Born in Salzburg, Austria

Mozart began composing music at age four. At six years old he was able to arrange notes into measures and then into compositions. Furthermore, he knew how to structure these compositions so that others could study them as well. The father knew that his son was a pianist prodigy and wanted to showcase his son's talent to royal audiences. From ages six to 13, Mozart traveled across Europe with his father and sister to give concert tours. Because of this exposure at such a young age, Mozart became a great composer. When his father became ill in London with a throat infection, he told Mozart not to play piano because he needed quiet. Mozart used this time to compose Symphony No. 1. He was only eight years old!

Featured compositions:

Symphony No. 1, K. 16, First Movement – This is the first movement in his collection of compositions known as the Köchel catalogue. It shows the influence of several composers including his father and Bach's son Johann Christian. The house in London where he composed it is marked with a plaque.

“He is the only musician who had as much knowledge as genius, and as much genius as knowledge.” -Italian composer Gioacchino Rossini

Eine Kleine Nachtmusik, K. 525 (“A Little Night Music”). The German title is “A Little Serenade”, a serenade being chamber

music for light entertainment. Serenades were often played in parks and gardens in Vienna in Mozart's time.

Mozart wrote this piece when he was 31 years old. Living conditions in 1787 were less than favorable and in July he caught a fever, possibly typhoid. After being bedridden for a month, he was finally able to sit up and write; he wrote down the notes that he had stored in his mind while very ill. Every note of all four movements was composed without Mozart writing down a single note until he felt better.

This string serenade was originally written for two violins, viola, cello, and bass. It was not published until 1827, long after Mozart had passed away (his widow Constanze sold it and other compositions to a publisher in 1799). The four movements are Allegro, Romanze, Menuetto & Trio, and Rondo. Mozart had originally listed the work as having five movements, but to this day we don't really know whether a fifth movement exists. Mozart was 35 years old when he died.

Johann Sebastian Bach

March 21 1685 – July 28 1750

Born in Eisenach, Germany

Bach was a Baroque composer who wrote more than 1000 compositions, from solo violin to full chorus to solo organs to orchestral pieces. He was admired by Handel, Mozart, and Beethoven, but many criticized his work for being too complicated. He had 20 children from two marriages; the

youngest son Johann Christian was known as the “London Bach.”

When Bach was nine his mother died, and his father died shortly after, so he lived with his oldest brother. He received a musical scholarship to study in Lüneburg, Germany, and soon became an organist. Organs were central to many of his pieces.

Featured composition: Sleepers, Wake

This is a choral cantata (Italian for “to sing”) as opposed to sonata (instrumental). It is known as Cantata 140 and depicts Jesus Christ’s return to his faithful followers. The full German title is “Wachet auf ruft uns die Stimme” (“Awake, the Voice is Calling”), a reference to a Biblical passage about the importance of being prepared spiritually.

Bach wrote this piece to be included in a Lutheran church service. He worked with pastor and composer Philipp Nicolai, who wrote the words. This is perhaps the best-known of all of Bach’s cantatas – and there were over 200 of them!

Ode to the Plains and Wild Horses Running

Written by Robert Kerr

This is the first movement of four movements entitled “American Serenade”. Each movement has a descriptive title which evokes vivid imagery from America’s past. The four movements are Ode to the Plains and Wild Horses Running, Gathering Storms, Elegy for Fallen Heroes, and A Nation Rising. Robert Kerr’s love of folk art, specifically the paintings

of Thomas Moran and Albert Beirstadt, inspired “Ode to the Plains.” This piece conjures up images of wide open spaces and big sky, representative of the harsh frontier life of the untamed west.

Shenandoah arranged by John Wilson and Rick England

Also known as “Across the Wide Missouri”

This is a traditional American folk song whose origin remains a mystery – who wrote it and when? It most likely originated with the early French-Canadian fur traders. They would board their boats and travel across the Great Lakes into the Missouri River to trade their wares with the Native Americans for animal furs. One trader fell in love with a daughter of Skenandoa, a chief of the Oneida Iroquois tribe. Because the Native Americans backed the English against the French during the French and Indian War, the chief forbade the marriage. It is quite possible that the soulful melody reflects the trader’s longing for a love he would never have. “Shenandoah” was sung by sailors in the mid 1800s and soldiers on both sides of the Civil War.

Music from *La La Land*

Music by Justin Hurwitz, lyrics by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul, arranged by Robert Longfield

“La La Land refers to LA and also I think it’s something bigger than that. It’s a way in which LA is bigger than itself.”

-Damien Chazelle, writer/director

La La Land is a 2016 romance musical film. It stars Ryan Gosling as a jazz pianist and Emma Stone as an aspiring actress, each dreaming of their own big break into the industry and trying to help each other along the way. The lively dancing is reminiscent of the classic film dancing of Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers.

Writer and director Damien Chazelle was born in 1985 in Providence, RI. His roommate from Harvard Justin Hurwitz wrote the music. The two were in an indie band together in college. Chazelle studied visual and environmental studies at Harvard. After graduation, he moved to LA with hopes of producing La La Land, a vision he created in college. He directed the movie Whiplash, whose success helped him get financing for La La Land. For La La Land, he earned the Oscar for Best Director, and the Golden Globe for Best Director. He was the youngest director to win each, at age 32.

Justin Hurwitz was born in California and attended Harvard, where he was roommates with Damien Chazelle. After graduation he moved back to California with Chazelle. He has worked as a writer on The League, The Simpsons, and Curb Your Enthusiasm. For La La Land, he won two Oscars and two Golden Globe awards, each for best original score and best original song (“City of Stars”).

Included in this medley is “Mia and Sebastian’s Theme”, “Another Day of Sun”, “Audition (The Fools Who Dream)”, “City of Stars”.

Villancico

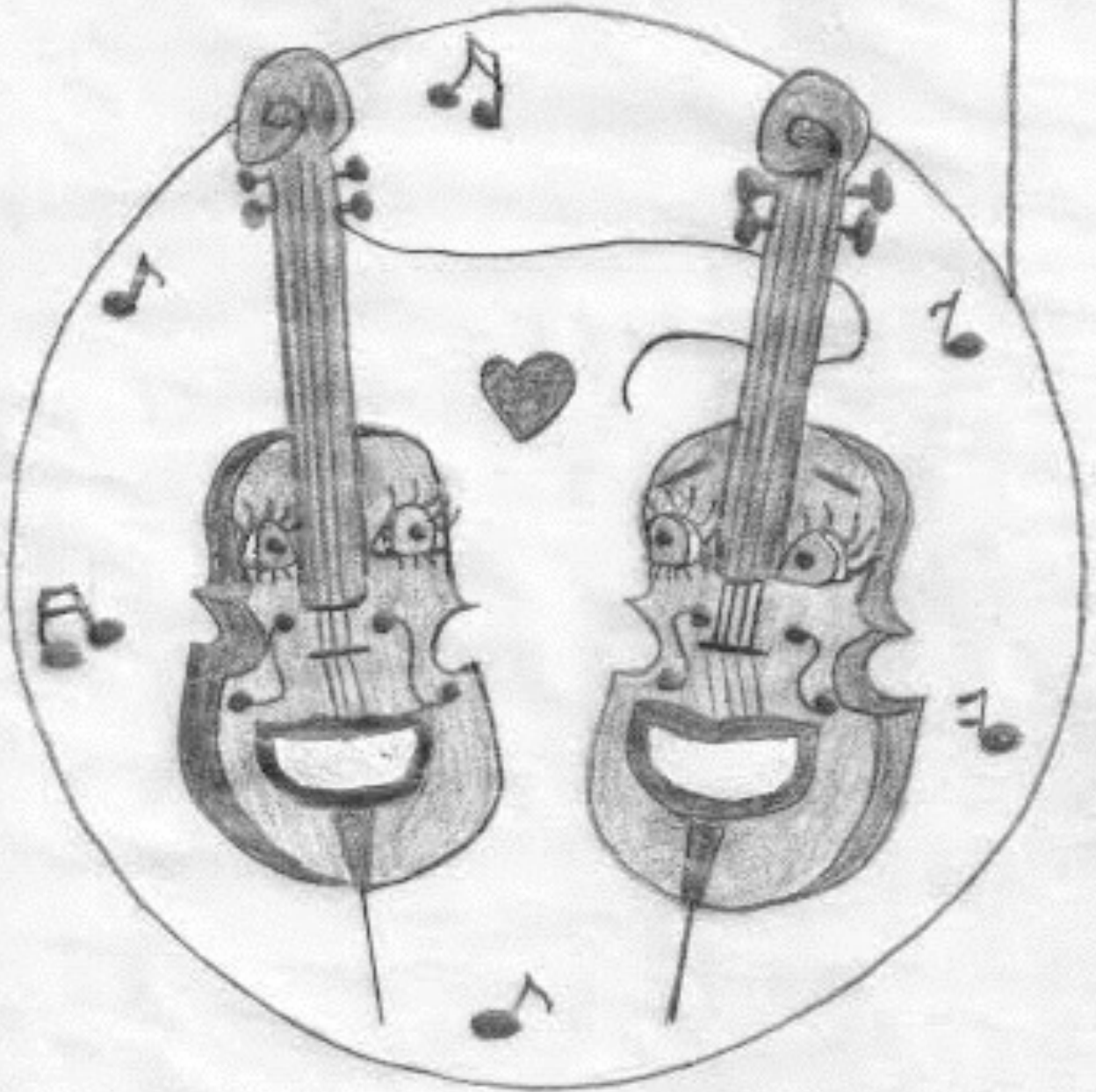
Traditional Spanish song

Arranged by Robert Sieving

“Villancico” is Spanish for “Christmas carol.” A villancico is a traditional Spanish song popular from the 1400s to the 1700s. Even before that, it still had a history – its origins can be traced back to chants that farmers and rural workers would sing. In the 1900s, it became synonymous with “Christmas carols.” Today it has religious connotations.

This particular arrangement, *Hacia Beln va una burra*, tells the story of a donkey’s journey to Bethlehem. It is popular in South and Central America. It embodies the trademark dance-like qualities of a villancico.

Happy holidays



to all of our instruments!

Acknowledgments

A warm thank you to Hannah Beekman and Stephen Beekman for your time and compassion in sharing information about Lisa and Merry with me. I could not have written the dedication without you. A special thanks to Bianca for bringing me up to date in the 21st century with the techniques of putting a brochure together. We graduated high school together and you're still so much smarter than me! And finally a huge heartfelt wraparound hug to my daughter Alison who, being a millennial, typed up the entire brochure and helped with research and formatting for this program. Thank goodness for millennials when their parents don't know how to turn a computer on!

All original artwork by Beverley Kagan Berstein

References

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