

Montgomery Philharmonic 2013 - 2014 Concert Season – A Confluence of Culture

An Evening of Serenades – June 1, 2014

Mozart | Dvorak | Hoffmann | van Otterloo

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–1791) – *Serenade for Orchestra No. 6 in D major, K. 239, Serenata notturna (1776)*

March

Country-Dance Minuet

Rondo

This serenade is scored for an unusual instrumentation—a solo group consisting of two violins, viola, and double bass and then a larger group of first and second violins, violas, celli, and timpani. The group of instruments is divided into two, with a solo group and a non-solo group. Mozart uses the two groups constantly throughout the piece as he tosses material back and forth between the two ensembles. Although the piece is not antiphonal in nature, the listener can easily hear that Mozart is experimenting with space between the two ensembles in the way he writes.

The *Serenata Notturna* is not considered one of Mozart’s masterpieces, like the *Haffner Serenade*, the *Posthorn Serenade*, and the *Wind Serenades in B-flat and E-flat* are, but it does offer music that is much more profound than some of the chamber music that he wrote solely for entertainment purposes. The title implies that the work was meant to be played at night at some sort of festive gathering. The music has pleasant melodies, with tunefulness being more important than development of themes, rhythmic intensity, or dramatic harmony. Musicologist John N. Burk wrote, “For the most part, Mozart used simple means to please his casual listeners, capturing their attention with wit, attaining distinction with his sensitivity to balance and color, lively and unfailing imagination... He neither wrote above the heads of his audience, nor did he demean his art.”

About Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (baptized Johannes Chrysostomus Wolfgangus Theophilus Mozart) was a prolific and influential composer of the Classical era who showed prodigious ability from his earliest childhood. Mozart started composing at the age of 6, and by the time he was 17 he had been appointed court composer and musician in Salzburg. These were tremendously prolific years for Mozart. It was during this time that he composed the *Serenata Notturna* as well as several symphonies, string quartets, masses, serenades, a few operas, and piano concerti. He also went on two important tours that his father arranged—one to Vienna in 1773 and the second to Munich in 1777.

Following his time in Salzburg, Mozart spent time in Paris, Augsburg, Mannheim, Munich, and Vienna. He settled in Vienna, where he achieved great success as an opera composer and met his wife, Costanza. In 1786, after he stopped performing in public, his income shrank and he was forced to take out loans. In need of money to support his family, he composed three more symphonies and his final two operas—*Cosi fan tutte* and *La clemenza di Tito*. His final work was the controversial *Requiem in D minor*, which was left incomplete at the time of his death. He managed to complete a few movements, however, and provided his friend Süssmayr with enough sketches to finish the requiem mass.

- **Born:** January 27, 1756, Salzburg, Austria
- **Died:** December 5, 1791, Vienna, Austria
- **Compositions:** 41 Symphonies, 27 Piano Concerti, 5 Violin Concerti, 4 Horn Concerti, Concerti for Bassoon, Clarinet, Flute, and Flute and Harp, numerous solo piano works, 9 works for piano four-hands, 36 violin sonatas, 6 strings duos/trios, 23 string quartets, 6 string quintets, 7 piano trios, numerous other chamber music, including flute quartets, an oboe quartet, a horn quartet, 13 serenades, 17 divertimenti, numerous marches and dances for various instruments, 18 masses, 14 other pieces of sacred music, 17 church sonatas for organ as well as numerous other works for organ, 23 operas
- **Children:** Raimund Leopold (June 17 – August 19, 1783), Karl Thomas Mozart (September 21, 1784 – October 31, 1858), Johann Thomas Leopold (October 18 – November 15, 1786), Theresia Constanza Adelheid Friedericke Maria Anna (December 27, 1787 – June 29, 1788), Anna Maria (died soon after birth, December 25, 1789), Franz Xaver Wolfgang Mozart (July 26, 1791 – July 29, 1844)

Instrumentation – 1st violin (soloist), 2nd violin (soloist), 1st viola, double bass, 1st violin, 2nd violin, 2nd viola, cello, timpani.

Artifacts –

http://petrucci.mus.auth.gr/imglnks/usimg/f/fd/IMSLP83720-PMLP40426-Mozart_Werke_Breitkopf_Serie_09_08_KV239.pdf

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RVva6K_jj3o


1. Mozart: Eine Kleine Nachtmusik - Posthorn Serenade - Serenata Notturna - Academy of St. Martin in the Fields & Sir Neville Marriner
2. Mozart: Symphonies No. 39, 40 & 41 - Eine Kleine Nachtmusik - Serenata Notturna - Berliner Philharmoniker & Herbert von Karajan
3. Mozart: Sinfonia Concertante, Symphony No. 13, Serenata Notturna - Strings of Zürich, Howard Griffiths, Frank Gassman & Semra Griffiths
4. Mozart: Serenata Notturna, Divertimenti - Freiburger Barockorchester & Petra Müllejans

1. Eine Kleine Nachtmusik, Serenata Notturna, & Sinfonia Concertante (Dover Miniature Music Scores)
2. Mozart Serenata Notturna KV 239 & Serenade KV 203
3. Mozart: Serenata Notturna, K. 239 & Divertimenti, K. 136, K. 137 & K. 138