



Flying Solo

Guest Artist:

Norman Krieger, Piano

Divertimento in D major (*Salzburg* Symphony No. 1)

Allegro
Andante
Presto

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

(1756-1791)

Piano Sonata No. 14 (*Moonlight* Sonata)

Adagio sostenuto
Allegretto
Presto

Ludwig van Beethoven

(1770-1827)

Piano Concerto No. 3

Allegro con brio
Largo
Rondo-Allegro

Ludwig van Beethoven

Who needs a conductor

During the Renaissance period, a choir kept together by tapping each other on the shoulder. Before the 19th century, the first violinist in an instrumental group usually gave a few necessary signals with his bow or the keyboard player led them, using his hands and head.

In the 19th century the larger size of ensembles and the growing complexity of the music with its varying tempos and heightened expressiveness made it necessary for a person to coordinate and interpret the music.

The first conductors, including Mendelssohn, Berlioz and Richard Wagner, were composers themselves; however, by the end of the century, conducting had become a specialty and great conductors had become celebrities in their own right.

Divertimento in D major (*Salzburg* Symphony No. 1)

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756-1791)

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was fifteen going on sixteen (at the end of his first decade as a composer) when he wrote the three *Salzburg* Symphonies, often called divertimentos instead of symphonies.



It's party time

If the word "Divertimento" reminds you a bit of the word "diversion," you would be correct! This catch-all word that has too many musical meanings to list here has basically served to describe pieces that please.

For Mozart, this kind of music served as party music or background music for a banquet. It may seem like an insult for such a great master to write art that is used for such insignificant and unappreciated events, but such was the life of a composer employed by aristocracy and nobility.

Music on demand

Composers throughout the Baroque and Classical eras and into the Romantic period (mid-19th century) did not have the opportunity to "be their own boss," so they had to look for service under a patron and, for the most part, compose for those occasions that their patron deemed important enough to have special music.

Mozart's previous patron, the Archbishop of Salzburg, Count von Schrattenbach, had died and had been succeeded by Count Colloredo, a zealous but unsympathetic ruler, who later dismissed him as a result of a quarrel. We don't know for what event(s) these divertimentos were composed, but the assumption is that they were written for happy occasions.

An infectious piece

One of Mozart's most famous pieces of music in this genre is his *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik* (*A Little Night Music*) and, like that work, the Divertimento in D major is light and tuneful. It does not have the long sections of developmental ideas found in his symphonies or concertos, but it still bears the mark of a true genius. The melodies and rhythms are infectiously optimistic.

Piano Sonata No. 14 (*Moonlight Sonata*)

Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770-1827)

Almost a fantasy

Instantly recognized by almost everyone today, Beethoven's *Moonlight Sonata* is one of the most famous classical pieces of music ever composed for piano. What isn't generally known, however, is that the original title for the piece wasn't *Moonlight Sonata* – it was *Quasi una Fantasia* (*Almost a Fantasy*).

The name *Moonlight Sonata* was coined in the 1830s, after Beethoven's death, by German poet and music critic Ludwig Rellstag who said the piece reminded him of how the moonlight reflected off of Lake Lucerne in Switzerland. It has been *Moonlight Sonata* ever since.



It was a love song

Beethoven wrote this sonata at the age of 31 during the early stages of his deafness and he dedicated it to his young student at the time, 17-year-old Countess Giulietta Guicciardi. After just a few lessons, they fell in love and it is believed that he proposed to her. According to most reports, she accepted, but her parents forbade the marriage, and she later wed Count Gallenberg. Beethoven never married.

Working for Peanuts

Why is this sonata, of all of Beethoven sonatas, so popular? Being used in many Hollywood films certainly does not hurt, and it was also a favorite piece by piano prodigy Schroeder from the Peanuts comic strip.

Piano Concerto No. 3

Ludwig van Beethoven

(1770-1827)

Beethoven's music – a direct outpouring of his personality

Beethoven lived during a period of tremendous upheaval which had been fermenting throughout the 18th century, bursting forth in the French Revolution. It deeply affected his work. On the other hand, Haydn and Mozart lived during part of the same period and they rarely mentioned it – and it seems that it didn't affect their music.

The music of Beethoven, however, is unthinkable without it.

Through these external circumstances and the force of his own genius he transformed the heritage of the Classical period and became the source of much that was characteristic of the Romantic period. As musicologist Donald Jay Grout stated, "He himself is neither Classic nor Romantic; he is Beethoven, and his figure towers like a colossus astride the two eras."

Breaking new ground

Piano Concerto No. 3 in C minor, composed in 1800 but not performed until 1803, was a startling change from the Classical concertos. Although it was modeled after Mozart's Piano Concerto in C minor (a work about which Beethoven once commented, "We shall never be able to do anything like that"), this concerto was "muscular," as if established standards no longer mattered and the capabilities of the instruments were being challenged.

Although it was received very coolly at the first performance (with Beethoven himself playing the piano), audiences quickly warmed to it and it soon became known as one of Beethoven's most beautiful compositions.



Did you know?

- ❑ The Beatles' song *Because* from their *Abbey Road* album is based on *Moonlight Sonata*; John Lennon got the inspiration when he was listening to his wife, Yoko Ono, playing the first movement on the piano and asked her to play the chords backwards; he then wrote *Because* using these backward chords.
- ❑ Hollywood's movies have featured Beethoven's music more than that of any other composer – from *Star Trek: Insurrection* to *The Horse Whisperer* to *Die Hard*.
- ❑ Although Beethoven was considered a musical genius, his education never exceeded elementary level.
- ❑ Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" from Symphony No. 9 was adopted as the European Union national anthem in 1972.

"The joy I have with Orchestra Nova is that I don't feel like a conductor, but rather another musician on stage. I just don't happen to make sound! Each of our musicians is a star, having individual personalities and gifts. It's a miracle of chemistry how they come together to create a single splendid voice." **Maestro Jung-Ho Pak**