

The background is a dynamic, swirling painting in a style reminiscent of Vincent van Gogh's 'The Starry Night'. It depicts a large orchestra and a conductor on a stage. The sky is filled with colorful, swirling patterns in shades of blue, yellow, and orange, with musical notes scattered throughout. The orchestra members are seated in rows, playing various instruments like violins, cellos, and double basses. The conductor stands on a small platform at the front, with arms outstretched. The overall atmosphere is one of intense energy and musical passion.

My Favourite Music — Part 2

Presented by Margaret Marsh

8 May 2025



Antonin Dvořák [1841-1904]

He was the first Bohemian composer to achieve worldwide recognition, noted for turning folk music into 19th-century Romantic music. When he was 12 he went to live with his aunt and uncle and began studying harmony, piano, and organ. In 1857 his music teacher, found that young Antonín had gone beyond his own modest abilities, persuaded his father to enrol him at the Institute for Church Music in Prague. There he completed a two-year course. [Wiki](#).

Dvořák wrote his ninth 3 act opera [Rusalka](#) in 1900, his most successful, becoming the standard repertoire worldwide. The most popular excerpt from Rusalka is the soprano aria, the “*Song to the Moon*” in Act 1, which is often performed in concert and recorded separately. It has also been arranged for violin and used on film soundtracks.

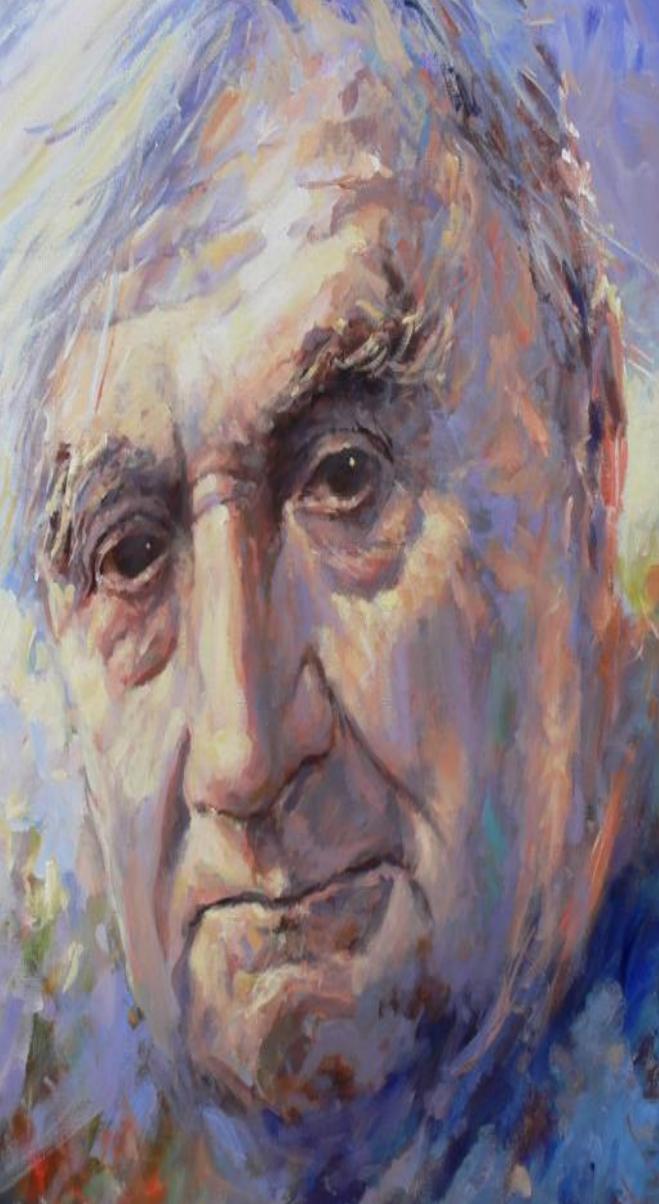
Rusalka - Moon Song - Asmik Grigorian. [6.22]

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Us_F2xLJgKI

Rusalka, a water nymph, sings her “*Song to the Moon*”, asking it to tell the prince of her love. The witch, Ježibaba, tells her that if she becomes human she will lose the power of speech and immortality; moreover, if she does not find love with the prince, he will die and she will be eternally damned.

Further viewing: Rusalka, full opera/English subs. [2.14.06]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E4lvAHYcaKY>



Ralph Vaughan Williams [1872-1958]

He was an English composer in the first half of the 20th century, and the founder of the “Nationalist Movement” in English music. He studied at Trinity College, Cambridge, and in London at the Royal College of Music under two major figures of the late 19th-century renaissance of English music, Sir Charles Stanford and Sir Hubert Parry. His studies of English folk song and his interest in Tudor period music fertilised his talent, enabling him to incorporate modal elements (folk songs and medieval scales) and rhythmic freedom into a musical style at once highly personal and deeply English. [Wikipedia](#).

Fantasia on Greensleeves. [4.38]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cm8B4fzGocU>

This exquisite miniature appeared originally in Vaughan Williams's 1928 opera ‘*Sir John in Love*’. The piece also incorporates a Sussex folk song called ‘*Lovely Joan*’. Greensleeves is a traditional melody that was well known in the 1500’s and which was put to masterful use here by Vaughan Williams.

Further viewing: Sir John in Love, full opera. Bronx Opera. [2.57.53]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NRliOS44Z0k>

Documentary - 150th Anniversary. [1.30.00]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mHMIqVY123s>



Frederick Delius [1862-1934]

Born in 1862 in Bradford of German parentage, Frederick Delius was sent by his father to Florida to be an orange grower. There he developed his musical interests and eventually persuaded his father to support him during a period of study at the Leipzig Conservatory, where he met Grieg. With continued paternal support he moved to Paris and met the painter Jelka Rosen, who later became his wife. His final years brought blindness and paralysis, the result of an early STD infection, and his later music was dictated to his young assistant, English musician Eric Fenby. Delius also had a strong champion in the conductor Sir Thomas Beecham, who did much to bring his music before the British public. The musical language of Delius, with a characteristic harmony and lyricism of its own, often has a rhapsodic intensity of feeling. [Wikipedia](#).

Walk to the Paradise Garden. [11.07]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZUXviJxS-Aw>

This “between the acts” piece comes from his opera “*A Village Romeo and Juliet*.” Arranged by Sir Thomas Beecham, here it is performed at the **Last Night of the Proms** at the Royal Albert Hall, by the BBC Symphony Orchestra under Sir Andrew Davis.

Further viewing: A Village Romeo and Juliet, full opera. [1.48.00]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dnmi0hXudEM>

The Life and Work of Frederick Delius. [30 mins.]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YPqx86-pexw&t=2s>

FRIEDRICH GULDA



Friedrich Gulda [1930-2000]

He was born and bred in that most traditional of musical cities, Vienna, a pianist and composer who worked in both the classical and jazz fields. Gulda began learning to play the piano at age 7 at the Wiener Volks Konservatorium. In 1942, he entered the Vienna Music Academy, where he studied piano and musical theory. He would also perform forbidden music, including jazz, in violation of the government's prohibition of playing of such music. Commonly regarded as the “cross-over” pioneer, and known for his extraordinary interpretations of the music of Bach, Beethoven, Chopin, Debussy , Mozart, Ravel , Schubert, Schumann, he freely cultivated an interest in jazz and composition all his life. [Wikipedia](#).

<https://interlude.hk/on-this-day-16-may-friedrich-gulda-was-born/>

“Aria” for Piano Solo. 1994. [4.42]

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5bieA3_VmVs

Further viewing: Beethoven Piano Concerto No.5 "Emperor" 1989. [38.26]

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=weK_L4oxbEo

Maestro Gulda translated music to the audience. No matter what they might have call him. A musician who only can perform Bach, Beethoven or Mozart. But furthermore he played jazz on a pretty high level and also he was a great composer. Always in love with the music , open minded and looking forward! What a great artist!



The Tales of Hoffmann, an opera by Jacques Offenbach [1819-1880]

It was the last and easily the most serious of the many Offenbach operas. Its premiere came posthumously in 1881. It was left unfinished at Offenbach's death, the work was completed by his colleagues, and is best known for its barcarolle "*Belle nuit, ô nuit d'amour*," "*Beautiful night, oh night of love*". [Wikipedia](#).

HAUSER and Aida Garifullina – Barcarolle, Royal Albert Hall. [3.51]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HIF8Xf63GaE>

Aida Garifullina is a Russian lyric soprano of Tatar descent. She was the winner of the 2013 Operalia competition and has featured in a number of productions staged at the Mariinsky Theatre, St. Petersburg and the Vienna State Opera.

[More Info](#).

Stephen Hauser, (aka HAUSER) is a Croatian cellist who studied music in Zagreb then moved to the UK where he studied at Trinity College of Music, London and completed his postgraduate studies at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester. [More info](#).

Further viewing: The Tales of Hoffman, full opera/English subs. [3.00.00]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DWXj3Edt-Mc>



Destiny Quartet

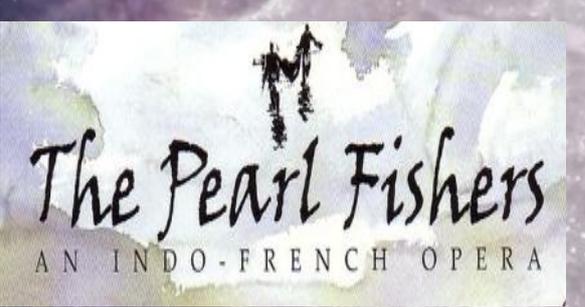
They are a crossover quartet, combining classical and popular musical styles. Renowned for their captivating repertoire that seamlessly blends modern arrangements of classical masterpieces, cinematic scores, and pop hits, leaving audiences in pure rapture. This talented quartet of four ladies has perfected an enchanting fusion of musical artistry, exceptional performance skills, and undeniable femininity.

Beethoven No.5. [3.00]: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k9WRXzyH3Ks>

Carmen's Tango. [3.11]: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WwpygZMNjRk>

Brahms Hungarian Dance #5. [3.11]: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dtMxit5ZU5Q>





The Pearl Fishers — Georges Bizet [1838-1875]

Bizet was a French composer of the Romantic era. Best known for his operas in a career cut short by his early death. Bizet achieved few successes before his final work, “Carmen”, which has become one of the most popular and frequently performed works in the entire opera repertoire. [Wikipedia](#).

The Pearl Fishers, an [opera](#) in 3 acts, set in ancient times on the island of Ceylon (Sri Lanka), it tells the story of how two men's vow of eternal friendship is threatened by their love for the same woman, whose own dilemma is the conflict between secular love and her sacred oath as a priestess.

“The Pearl Fishers Duet ” [6.15]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p2MwnHpLV48>

— also known as the Friendship Duet, is one of the best known duets in Western opera, here sung by [Dmitri Hvorostovsky](#) & [Jonas Kaufmann](#)

Further viewing:

The Pearl Fishers, full opera/English subs. Opéra-Comique, Paris. [2.07.06]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IDEuISAewwE>



Organ Symphony No 3. Finale. Camille Saint-Saëns [1835-1921]

The final movement of Camille Saint-Saëns' mighty 'Organ' Symphony No.3 played on the Royal Albert Hall's grand organ, the second largest in the UK. The composer's third symphony perfectly showcases the scale of its namesake instrument – accompanied here by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Kirill Karabits. It was made famous in the 1995 family movie, “Babe”.

[8.30] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=swDuXAKLy8U>

Saint-Saëns: The Man and His Music. [5.32]

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NJO5_L1c1Zc&t=5s

Further viewing: Symphony No 3 C minor, Organ Symphony. [41.00]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ILJAJcVwjlc>

Anna Lapwood, MBE.

A British organist, choir director and television and radio presenter, whose recordings have reached a wide audience on social media since she was appointed as an associate artist at the Royal Albert Hall in London in 2022. [Wikipedia](#).

Website: <https://annalapwood.co.uk>

A vibrant, swirling painting of an orchestra. The scene is filled with energy, with swirling colors of blue, yellow, and red in the background. In the foreground, a conductor stands on a podium, facing a large ensemble of musicians. The musicians are seated in rows, playing various instruments including violins, violas, cellos, and double basses. The overall style is expressive and dynamic, with a sense of movement and sound. A semi-transparent text box is overlaid in the center of the image.

I hope you enjoyed my
favourite music.
Thank you for listening.