

The background is a highly detailed and colorful painting of an orchestra. The scene is filled with musicians in dark blue uniforms, seated with their instruments (violins, violas, cellos, and double basses). A conductor stands on a small platform at the center, facing the orchestra. The entire scene is set against a backdrop of swirling, ethereal patterns in shades of blue, yellow, and orange, resembling a storm or a celestial phenomenon. The overall style is expressive and dynamic, with a sense of movement and energy. A semi-transparent dark grey rectangular box is centered over the middle of the image, containing the title and presenter information in white text.

My Favourite Music ...
Presented by Margaret Marsh

The background is a highly detailed and colorful painting of an orchestra. The scene is filled with musicians in dark blue uniforms, seated in a semi-circle. They are playing various instruments, including violins, violas, cellos, and double basses. In the center, a conductor stands on a small platform, arms outstretched. The sky above is a whirlwind of colors, with swirling patterns in shades of blue, yellow, orange, and red, suggesting a dynamic and energetic atmosphere. The overall style is reminiscent of a classical painting with a modern, expressive twist.

... well some of
My Favourite Music!
Presented by Margaret Marsh

Samuel Barber

ABSOLUTE BEAUTY

documentary feature film about the composer of the Adagio for Strings



Samuel Barber :: Adagio for Strings

Samuel Osmond Barber II (1910 – 1981) was an American composer, pianist, conductor, baritone, and music educator, and one of the most celebrated composers of the mid-20th century. Premiered on November 5, 1938, Adagio has long been associated in the USA with national periods of mourning, having been performed at the funerals of presidents Roosevelt and Kennedy, and in the days following the New York September 11 attacks in 2001. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samuel_Barber

.....
Samuel Barber: Adagio for Strings, Op.11

Vienna Philharmonic Summer Night Concert, 2019 [9.00]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WAoLJ8GbA4Y>

An annual open-air event, which has been held since 2008.

The park of Schönbrunn Palace in Vienna/Austria is the magical setting for the concert, which is free of charge for all residents and visitors of the city.

.....
Further viewing: "Adagio for Strings" from the movie Platoon [7.40]:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hov2MVuVuzc>



Giacomo Puccini :: Madama Butterfly

An opera in three acts (originally two) based on the short story “*Madame Butterfly*” (1898) by John Luther Long, which was based on the 1887 French novel “*Madame Chrysanthème*” by Pierre Loti. It premiered on 17 February 1904 at La Scala, Milan, but was poorly received. Puccini revised the opera, splitting the second act in two, with the “*Humming Chorus*” as a bridge to Act III ... success followed.

The story is about a naval officer who enters into a temporary marriage of convenience with the young geisha, Butterfly, while stationed in Japan. It details the "little adventure" from his arrival in Nagasaki - including his engagement of a marriage broker, his relationship with Butterfly, and his eventual departure...

“Come my little "mouse" let us part good friends ... let us embrace. I took you for my own amusement and you gave me what you could: your little body, your respect, and your quaint music. All in all, you have been sweet enough in your Nipponese way.”

.....
Un Bel Di Vedremo. Anna Netrebko. Memoirs of a Geisha. [4.34]

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fppXnp8_Q4Y

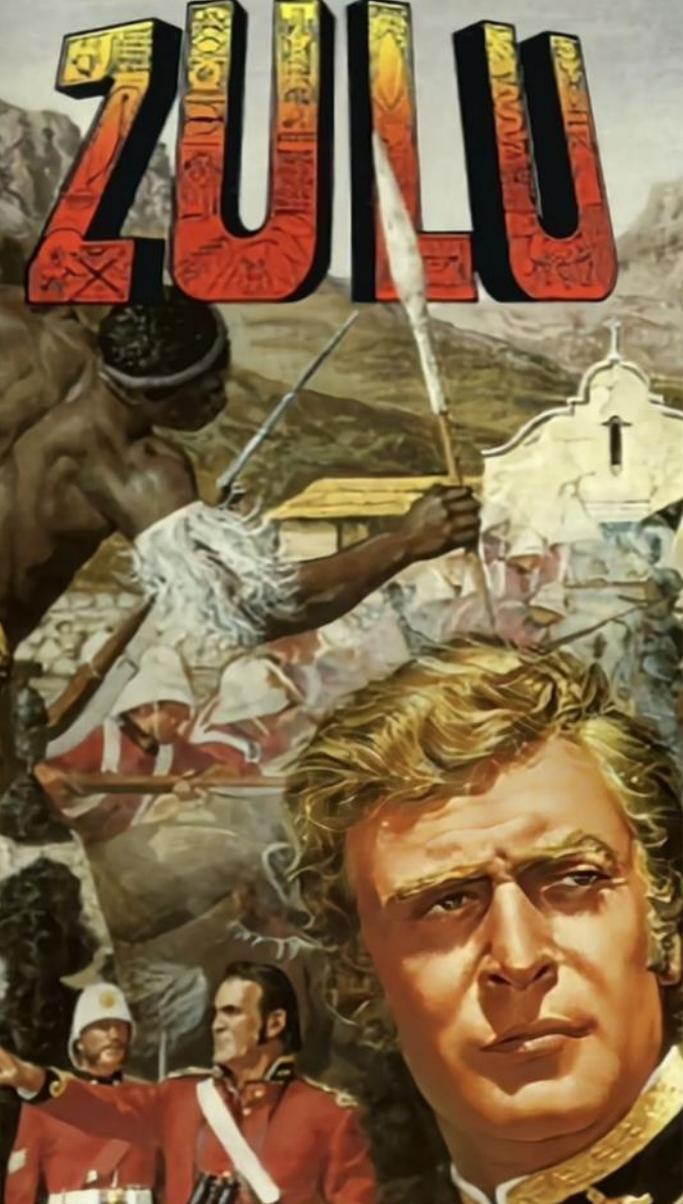
Metropolitan Orchestra and Chorus, The Humming Chorus. [3.00]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NFOzgNlg0dg>

.....
Further viewing, full opera :: Madama Butterfly. Metropolitan Opera 2024 [2.43.00]

Asmik Grigorian and Jonathan Tetelman

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hcj4DIEyPYE>



John Barry :: The Zulu Theme

The late, great John Barry was one of the most celebrated film composers of all time, winning 5 Academy and 4 Grammy Awards, in a musical career spanning 50 years. One of his successful scores was for the film “Zulu” in 1964, which depicted the “*Battle of Rorke’s Drift*” in January 1879 between the British and Zulu armies during the Anglo-Zulu War.

It tells of great heroism when 150 British soldiers, many ill and diseased. Unable to abandon their wounded soldiers even in dire circumstances, the regiment successfully held off a force of 4,000 mighty Zulu warriors.

Eleven British soldiers received the Victoria Cross for the defence of Rorke's Drift, the most ever awarded for a single action.

.....
Zulu Theme Music. [7.52]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yvpnNa1nFWI>

.....
Further viewing:

The Music of Zulu - John Barry Interview [6.32]

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

.....
Zulu Dawn [1.52.00]: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NetxJAKdO6Yh>

Zulu [2.18.21]: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NetxJAKdO6Y>

Zulu Dawn is based on the **Battle of Isandhlwana** on the morning of 22 January 1879 during the Anglo-Zulu war. The movie **Zulu** dramatises the **Battle of Rorke's Drift** later that same day.



Georges Bizet :: The Gypsy Song from Carmen

Set in southern Spain it tells the story of the downfall of Don José, a naïve soldier who is seduced by the fiery gypsy Carmen. José abandons his childhood sweetheart and deserts from his military duties, yet loses Carmen's love to the glamorous toreador Escamillo, after which José kills her in a jealous rage.

The depictions of proletarian life, immorality, and lawlessness, and the tragic death of the main character on stage, broke new ground in French opera and was highly controversial.

.....
Gypsy Song. [5.21]

Metropolitan Opera, New York. Elina Garanca, Teddy Tahu Rhodesador.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UpyJcA9d0Qs>

.....
Further viewing, full opera :: Carmen, 1984 movie
Julia Migenes-Johnson, Placido Domingo

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bhzw1G5M9Ms>



HAUSER :: Adagio in G minor by Albinoni, arranged by Giazotto

Adagio in G minor for strings and organ is a neo-Baroque composition often misattributed to the 18th-century Venetian composer Tomaso Albinoni. In fact the work was composed by a 20th-century musicologist and Albinoni biographer named Remo Giazotto.

The piece was purportedly based on the discovery of a bass line by Albinoni in a manuscript fragment. Scholarly debate over the existence of the fragment persists, with most seeing the affair as a musical hoax perpetrated by Giazotto.

There is no room for doubt when it comes to the source of everything in the Adagio other than the bassline, and Giazotto's authorship of these parts is not disputed. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adagio_in_G_minor

.....
**HAUSER performing with the Zagreb Philharmonic Orchestra,
Lisinski Concert Hall in Zagreb, October 2017. [6.56]**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kn1gcjuhlhg>



Carmina Burana Explained

“*O Fortuna*” is a medieval Latin Goliardic poem which is part of the collection known as the “*Carmina Burana*”, written in the early 13th century. It is a complaint about Fortuna, the inexorable fate that rules both gods and mortals in Roman mythology.

.....
**Carmina Burana Explained by
Music Director Brent Stewart, Orpheus Choir, Wellington [6.11]**

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

.....

About The Carmina Burana Collection:

The manuscript contains 318 songs, most of them in Latin, some in German. Their content is almost exclusively profane: didactic moralizing poems and satires, love songs and spring songs, and drinking and gaming verses are here brought together in the most comprehensive and important collection of lyric poetry from the 12th and early 13th centuries. The songs seem to be derived from various sources, some of them probably originating with itinerant scholars. In addition to these songs, the manuscript contains two Latin plays: a Nativity play and a Passion play. Occasionally, the songs have melodies added in the form of neumes. Eight illustrations, most of them at the ends of groups of songs of like content, are inserted. Three scribes worked on the manuscript, which, according to script and language must have been produced in the area of the southern Alps. There is evidence for the presence of this manuscript in the monastery of Benediktbeuern only from the 18th century onwards. In 1803, when the monastery was dissolved, the manuscript was discovered by Johann Christoph von Aretin. The songs from Benediktbeuern were popularised by the composer Carl Orff (1895-1982), who later turned them into a cantata entitled *Carmina Burana* (1937).

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carmina_Burana

Carl Orff's "*Carmina Burana*", the **full work** performed by the WDR Symphony Orchestra. [1 hr]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yb6jULNu5ik>



Giacomo Puccini :: Nessun Dorma, Turandot

It is sung by Calaf, (the unknown Prince of Tartary), who falls in love at first sight with the beautiful but cold Princess Turandot. Any man who wishes to wed her must first answer three riddles; if he fails, he is beheaded.

.....
Franco Corelli's 'Nessun Dorma' (TV film 1958). [4.04]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fWokeI5YxM8>

The definitive Calaf of history, Franco Corelli and Lucille Udovich's wonderful Turandot in this charming, vintage made-for-TV version of the opera.

The film was made for Puccini's 100th birthday at the RAI Milano studios.

.....
14 World Famous Tenors Sing Nessun Dorma. [9.54]

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kg3aiEiK_PU

.....
Further viewing, full opera:

Turandot, Teatro alla Scala, Milan, 2024. English subtitles. [2.16.00]

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B_hSo38B0PE

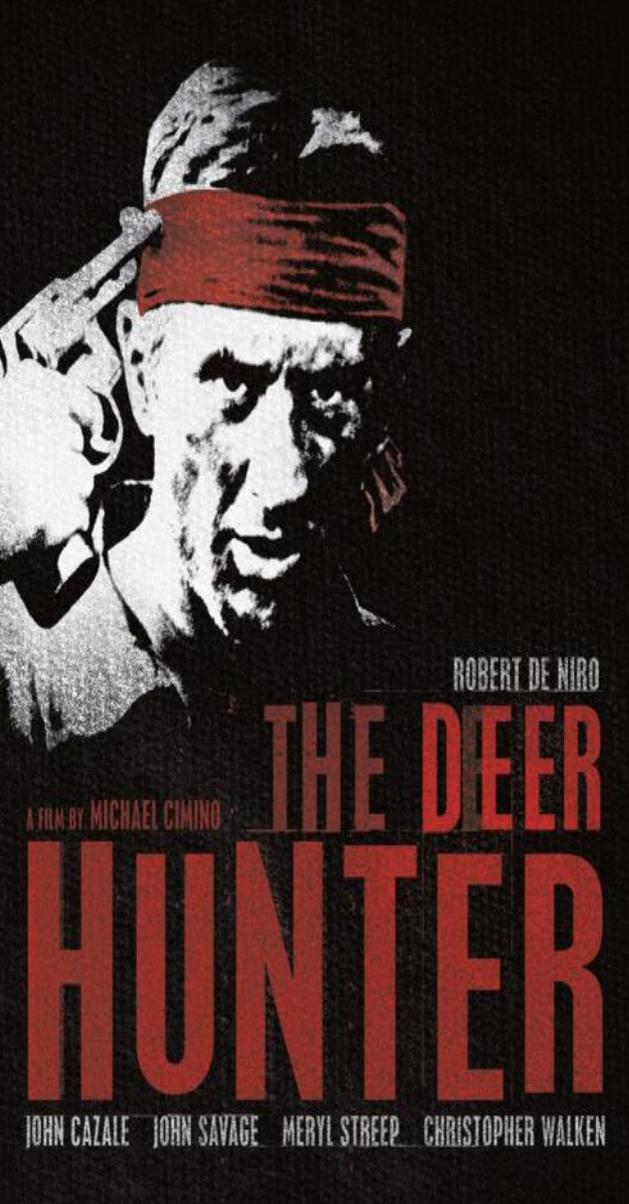
Warning: the Prince of Persia is naked and appears at 15:30.

Puccini died on 29 November 1924. Famously, at the opera's 1926 premiere in Milan, Arturo Toscanini stopped conducting after the death scene of Liù, which was the last music composed and fully orchestrated by Puccini, he turned to the audience, and said, *"Here the opera ends, because the Maestro died."*

In our full opera above, the company sought to recreate this moment by giving everyone LED tea-lights. Then at the end of Act II, the music stopped, and all switched on their lights, observing a 1 minute silence at 1:51:10.



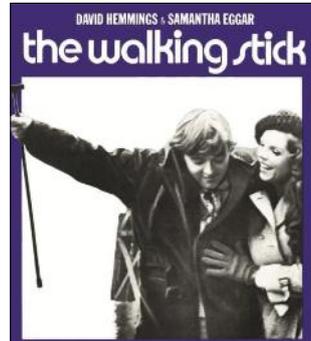
"Here Giacomo Puccini Died"



Stanley Myers :: Cavatina

Stanley Myers (1930 – 1993) was an English composer and conductor, who scored over sixty films and television series. Best known for his guitar piece “Cavatina”, composed for the 1970 film “*The Walking Stick*” and later used as the theme for the movie “*The Deer Hunter*”. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stanley_Myers

.....
The Carisma Guitar Duo playing ‘Cavatina. [4.08]
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X7SvBtJuh3Y>
.....



Further viewing, full movie: The Walking Stick (1970)
David Hemmings, Samantha Eggar. [1.37.00]
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O52UZ4a7wy4>

A woman's life is upended when she falls for a charming stranger, only to find he is part of a gang planning to rob her workplace, needing her knowledge to pull it off.



Amadeus Mozart :: Queen of the Night Aria, The Magic Flute

It depicts a fit of vengeful rage in which the Queen of the Night places a knife into the hand of her daughter Pamina and exhorts her to assassinate Sarastro, the Queen's rival, else she will disown and curse Pamina. Memorable for its upper register staccatos, the fast-paced and menacingly grandiose piece is one of the most famous of all opera arias.

The first singer to perform the aria on stage was Mozart's sister-in-law **Josepha Weber**. By all accounts, she had an extraordinary upper register and an agile voice and apparently Mozart, being familiar with her vocal ability, wrote this and another blockbuster aria in "*The Magic Flute*" to showcase it.



.....
From the movie *Amadeus*. June Anderson. [2.06]
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5kwTEYNZosE>

British-Jamaican coloratura soprano Rachel Duckett. [3.26]
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B1JfpyYd4aU>

.....
Further viewing, full opera: *The Magic Flute*. [2.40.00]
Richard Bonyng, Australian Opera 1986.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BurovR247oI>

BOLERO

STORY OF IDA RUBINSTEIN



TRIBUTE TO MAURICE RAVEL

Maurice Ravel :: Boléro

In 1928, Ravel, an internationally renowned composer, and Ida Rubinstein a dancer, actress, art patron and Belle Époque figure from the Russian Empire, collaborated on the landmark work Boléro, giving birth to one of the most famous ballets in the history of dance. Ida had performed with Diaghilev's Ballets Russes from 1909 to 1911 and later formed her own company.

As Ravel was finishing his “Sonata for Violin and Piano” and preparing for a four-month concert tour of the United States and Canada, his friend Ida asked him for an original ballet with a ‘Spanish character’. Ravel, always inspired by dance and an eternal lover of Spain, chose the rhythm of the bolero, a traditional Andalusian dance.

The ballet was an instant hit. The repetitive, hypnotic character of Ravel’s music, coupled with Rubinstein’s choreography, captivated the audience. Its progressive structure and haunting rhythm perfectly illustrate Ravel’s innovative approach. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boléro>

.....
André Rieu & the Johann Strauss Orchestra live in Maastricht [6.56]:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LwLABSm0yYc>



Maurice Ravel :: Boléro

Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean are British ice dancers and former British, European, Olympic, and World champions. At the Sarajevo 1984 Winter Olympics the pair won gold and became the highest-scoring figure skaters of all time for a single programme, receiving 12 perfect 6.0s and six 5.9s which included artistic impression scores of 6.0 from every judge. It was watched by 24 million UK viewers... I was one of them!

Their music was too long at 4.28 mins for the competition time of 4.10. They improvised the opening so that Jayne's blades touched on the ice 18 seconds after the music started to give them a time of exactly 4.10.

.....
Torvill and Dean's "Boléro". Sarajevo. Valentine's Day 1984. [4.34]:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rc-0BCSyWtc>

After 10 years they came back to the 1994 Lillehammer games and replayed the performance as their Exhibition program [6.13]:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nC50M6LHcHY>

.....
On 14 February 2024, it was announced that 2025 would be their final time skating together, before they would be retiring at the end of their final UK tour which runs from April-May 2025.

Their Last Dance: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kueWUPMSrq8>
Time to say goodbye: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BPC3HRaVvSA>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Torvill_and_Dean



paul McCartney's

STANDING STONE

and finally ...

**PAUL McCARTNEY'S
STANDING STONE**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Vq7AxJbvto>

The background is a highly detailed and colorful painting. It depicts a conductor standing on a podium at the center, facing a large orchestra of musicians. The musicians are seated and playing various instruments, including violins, violas, cellos, and double basses. The scene is filled with a sense of dynamic movement, emphasized by the swirling, vortex-like patterns in the sky and the overall composition. The color palette is rich and varied, featuring blues, yellows, oranges, and greens. The style is reminiscent of a classical painting but with a more expressive, almost abstract quality in the upper half. A semi-transparent dark grey rectangle is overlaid in the center, containing the title and presenter information in white text.

My Favourite Music ...
Presented by Margaret Marsh