

Concert Program Notes

Directions: Write program notes for each piece that was scheduled to be performed on our next concert.

What are program notes? Program notes give the audience concise information about the piece of music they are about to hear so that they have a greater understanding of the musical ideas that are being conveyed.

Please include the following information in your program notes:

- Composer background - Dates of birth/death, education, other famous works, awards, etc.
- Cultural significance - What culture does this piece come from, specific musical ideas of that culture, religious importance (if any)
- Specific information about the piece - Who/what was it written for, other interesting information.

Below you will find an example of program notes for the piece *The Pines of Rome*:

Ottorino Respighi was born in Bologna, Italy on July 9, 1879 to a family of artists, sculptors, and musicians. Despite this, Respighi showed little interest in music at an early age, but eventually went on to study violin, piano, harp, and viola. In his early 20s, he accepted the role of principal violinist of the orchestra of the Russian Imperial Theatre in St. Petersburg, where he met and studied composition with Russian composer Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov. Respighi later returned to Bologna to complete his studies at the Liceo Musicale. At age 33, Respighi moved to Rome and remained there for the rest of his life. He died on April 18, 1936 from blood poisoning complications following a throat infection and oral surgery. *The Pines of Rome* is Respighi's second of three symphonic poems celebrating the beauty of Rome. He states that he used "Nature as a point of departure, in order to recall memories and vision. The centuries-old trees which so characteristically dominate the Roman landscape become witnesses to the principal events in Roman life." *The Fountains of Rome* and *Roman Festivals* are the others, and similarly display the rich orchestral colors that brought him international fame.

Concert Program-

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