

Program notes prompt

This concert takes on the holidays from a variety of different perspectives. Your concert notes should address two different things:

1. The culture from which this piece is derived and
2. How the music reflects this culture.

Your program notes should be succinct and able to be used as written for our upcoming concert as vocally read notes, able to be understood by a non-musician but intelligent adult. The best notes for each piece will be used on our concert.

Symphonic Band

Farandole

Tonight's concert takes you through a variety of musical cultures for an image of how the holidays incorporate music into their celebration practices. Farandole began its life as part of a suite of incidental music to accompany the French play L'Arlessienne meaning "the Girl from Arles." The story of this play is similar to a Shakespearean comedy of mistaken identities, including a shepherd who masquerades as a king so to win the love of the Girl from Arles. The term farandole refers to a French country dance and this one is based off a traditional hymn "The March of the Kings." It has come to symbolize a bold statement of the holiday season since its writing in 1872.

Russian Christmas Music

Russian Christmas Music was written in 1944 as a tribute to the friendship between the Russian and American people during World War II. It utilizes liturgical music and the style of Russian Orthodox music, most notably the ancient Russian carol "Carol of the Little Russian Children." Bear in mind that Orthodox liturgy dictates that no instruments be used in worship, so the ensemble has strived to imitate vocal phrasing and techniques through a moving presentation of themes and sounds of this rich musical heritage including dense chord structures, extensive dynamic contrast, running ostinato lines, and complicated interplay between all voices.

Shalom!

Shalom! is based off of Israeli folk music, which is a blend of Middle Eastern, Orthodox, eastern European, and Germanic music traditions. This piece includes elements of Israeli music that are both liturgical and secular in nature and represent music for both Sabbath and Hanukkah worship and celebration. Elements of Russian Christmas Music can be heard in this music, particularly in the slower sections. At the same time, much of the non-liturgical music has a dancelike feel associated with Eastern European and Germanic folk music.



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