



Music Selection Information for the 2019 Contest

from Symphony No. 25 in G minor, K. 183/173dB

I. Allegro con brio – Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756 – 1791)

Written in 1773 when Mozart was only 17, the Symphony No. 25 taps into the *Sturm und Drang* (“storm and stress”) style that was popular in German art in the second half of the 18th century. Among other things, the style promoted more extreme expression of emotions. The first movement, marked “Allegro con brio” (“spirited and lively”), is especially indicative of the *Sturm und Drang* style, with its agitated character, syncopated rhythms and wide-leaping melodies. This movement was chosen for the opening of the 1984 award-winning film, *Amadeus*.

In the same year that Mozart composed his Symphony No. 25, a different type of “storm and stress” was taking place on the other side of the Atlantic. Rising bad feelings among American colonists about how they were being treated by the British Parliament had been pushed over the edge with the Tea Act of 1773, which gave the British East India Company an advantage over the local tea sellers in America. Tea was a very popular drink at the time, and many American colonists were furious. On December 16, 1773, a group of colonists, some dressed in disguise, forcibly boarded three ships in Boston harbor and dumped 342 large chests of tea into the water before they could be unloaded. All of the British tea was destroyed! This famous event, coined the “Boston Tea Party,” led to further tension between Great Britain and the American colonies, contributing to the lead up of the American Revolutionary War, which broke out two years later.

from *Eine kleine Nachtmusik* Serenade, K. 525

I. Allegro – Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756 – 1791)

Ancient serenades were typically simple songs composed to honor someone, and were meant to be performed for that special person in the fading evening light. In Mozart’s time, serenades had evolved into works with several movements and often written for a full orchestra. Mozart’s lighthearted and tuneful work, *Eine kleine Nachtmusik* (“a little serenade”), is arranged in four movements and composed just for strings, with the first movement marked as a simple Allegro (“spirited, fast”). The opening arpeggios of this movement form one of the most recognizable tunes in all the world of music, perhaps second only to the four-note beginning of Beethoven’s Fifth Symphony. Ironically, *Eine kleine* was not published until 1827, 36 years after Mozart’s death.

It is a rather remarkable coincidence that one of the most revered documents of modern time, the United States Constitution, and one of the most recognized pieces of classical music, Mozart’s *Eine kleine Nachtmusik* Serenade, were both created in the same year: 1787. While the Serenade was composed by a single musical genius, the U. S. Constitution developed out of the contributions and civilized debate of many individuals. Both works display however an overwhelming desire for harmony.

from Symphony No. 3 in E-flat major, Op. 55, “Eroica”

I. Allegro con brio [excerpt] – Ludwig van Beethoven (1770 - 1827)

Beethoven’s monumental Third Symphony changed the course of classical music. For one thing, it was nearly twice as long as any symphony previously written. Then there are the many broken rules of established symphonic form as well as loud outbursts and dissonant chords. Its first audiences were often left shocked and confused. For certain, the work demonstrates a turning point in music history, and a composer who was pushing the boundaries of accepted musical tradition. Beethoven had originally dedicated the symphony to Napoleon – but angrily scratched out the name when he learned that Napoleon had declared himself Emperor of France. He later changed the dedication to read “Heroic Symphony, composed to celebrate the memory of a great man.”

Perhaps one personage fitting of Beethoven’s “Heroic” dedication is our very own George Washington, who had finished his eight years as our first president just years before Beethoven wrote his Third Symphony. Called the “Father of His Country,” Washington was twice unanimously elected to the presidency and today is often counted as one of the three greatest American presidents. Rather than declare himself an emperor, Washington left behind a legacy of impartial government, fair political practices and institutions designed to serve the people.

YPC 3 streaming concert playlists (including Paint to Music selections) are available at:
Spotify - <https://spoti.fi/2nXCVAt>

Youtube - <https://bit.ly/2LkzBbT>