Senior Citizens Music Appreciation Program Date: November 16, 2026

Time: 10:30-noon **Bill Fernekes email**: bill41@comcast.net

Program Website: https://williamrfernekes.com

A Musical Happy 250th Birthday for the USA

I. Announcements

A. Blawenburg Band Holiday Concert

December 12, 2026 at The College of New Jersey, 3:00 pm. Free.

Details on this and other performances are available at https://blawenburgband.org

B. NJ Symphony Trip Proposal: 2 Concerts proposed: February 21 in Morristown or May 16 in New Brunswick. Shalini is working with the NJ Symphony to finalize details—hopefully an update by our December 14 session.

II. Varieties of American Music

A. **Indigenous Peoples's Music and Religious Music**: During the period of European encounter with Native Peoples in the Western Hemisphere, both groups shared musical traditions. Native percussion and flute music was pervasive throughout the Americas, while the Europeans brought religious music (vocal and instrumental), as well as folk music and eventually concert music. European music was rooted in the immigrants' home country experience—Scottish folk songs, English choral music, Moravian vocal and instrumental music and others. As a result of the Atlantic slave trade, Africans brought to the Americas their own musical traditions, including drumming and singing styles reflecting their regional origins.

B. **Spirituals**: Before the Civil War, African-American spirituals became central to the experience of slaves, many of whom were now practicing Christianity. The origins of Gospel music can be traced to the "call and response" patterns of African music and Scottish church music. Jazz, the most quintessential form of what might be termed "American music", has many of its roots in African rhythms but has evolved over time into a multi-faceted genre—ragtime, big band swing, ragtime, the blues, be-bop and other forms.

C. **Folk Music**: Folk music in the U. S. has many roots, much of it developed early in Appalachia, along with other traditions linked to immigrant groups, such as the Acadians who emigrated from French Canada to Louisiana. Modern country music, bluegrass, zydeco and other genres have their roots in the 18th century but have evolved over time to become prominent modern musical traditions.

D. **"Art Music":** The development of "art music" rooted in European forms and traditions began in the 18th century, with small ensembles performing in urban centers such as Philadelphia, Boston and New York. Opera came to the new United States in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, while the oldest professional orchestra in the U. S. was formed in New York in 1842, now known as the New York Philharmonic. In the 19th century, music conservatories were developed and became a training ground for US art musicians and composers, gradually minimizing the importance of European training for U. S.-born musicians.

E. **Popular Music**: 19th century ballads and minstrel songs were at the forefront of U. S. popular music, eventually giving way to ragtime, songs of Tin Pan Alley, the blues, music rooted in ethnic traditions and the band music of John Philip Sousa, Henry Fillmore and others. Most towns and cities had their own community bands, which played original compositions and arrangements or transcriptions of concert music and popular tunes. Over time, popular music evolved (along with the development and expansion of radio, sound recordings and films) into what we call today "rock music" and other formats (i. e., doo wop, easy listening, rhythm and blues and others).

F. **Music for the Theatre/Films**: In the 19th century, operettas were a popular theatrical/musical form in New York and other major cities, and they became the progenitors of what we today call the American musical. With the development of silent and later sound films, music was viewed as integral to the cinematic experience—either as accompaniment to silent films (example—the theater organ or small ensemble with piano) or as original works composed for sound films. This later was expanded to encompass music for television and with the creation of the personal computer, music for computer games is now an increasingly prominent sub-genre.

III. Indigenous and Religious Music

A. Native American music: "Deer Spirits Welcome the Dawn"
B. Religious Music: William Billings, "Chester"
C. Religious Music: Moravian Choral and Instrumental Music

IV. Spirituals

A. "No More Auction Block"
B. "Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel" (spiritual)

V. Folk Songs

A. Woody Guthrie, "This Land is Your Land"
B. "Shenandoah", traditional
C. Hank Williams, "Jambalaya", Cajun style

VI. "Art Music"

A. Charles Ives, "The Housatonic at Stockbridge" from *Three Places in New England*
B. George Gershwin, *Rhapsody in Blue*
C. George Antheil, *Serenade for String Orchestra*, "Vivo"

VII. Popular Music

A. Instrumental (solo)

1. Scott Joplin, "Elite Syncopations"
2. Amy Beach, "Nocturne"

B. Vocal

1. Harry von Tilzer, "Wait Till the Sum Shines, Nellie"
2. Andree, Schwandt, Kahn, "Dream a Little Dream of Me"
3. Sammy Fain and Irving Kahal, "I'll Be Seeing You"

C. Ensemble

1. John Philip Sousa, March, "Hail to the Spirit of Liberty"
2. Samuel Ward, "America the Beautiful"
3. Dave Brubeck, "Take Five"

VIII. Music for the Theatre/Films

A. Jerome Kern, "Ol' Man River" from *Show Boat*
B. Leonard Bernstein, "Mambo" from *West Side Story*
C. John Williams, "Main Title", *Star Wars*

Encores (To Be Announced)

IX. YouTube Recordings

A. Carlos Nakai, "Earth Spirit", https://youtu.be/c_1zw9KGmDo?si=0RwnsIUM1H_yIDvv
B. Lititz Moravian Trombone Choir, "A Moravian Chorale Cycle", https://youtu.be/yOdR3qE2C3s?si=vVZKIf27CaWd12Ug
C. Marian Anderson Sings "Go Down, Moses", https://youtu.be/lebh64WKUOM?si=O2-SX9FloKaVtS9K
D. Peter, Paul and Mary, "If I Had a Hammer", March on Washington 1963, https://youtu.be/AKgm9ARmOMM?si=IeU_JOipD-2gAC7q
E. Charles Ives, *Symphony No. 2*, First Movement, https://youtu.be/d0OpTJlXdko?si=iHaHGfKDBMcU2CFr

F. George Antheil, *Ballet Mecanique*, https://youtu.be/rfciL-werS8?si=-ucHmy220Eh17Rq4
G. Scott Joplin, *Treemonisha*, "A Real Slow Drag", https://youtu.be/wXK7hW0vaBU?si=yUk_XnBkxP8EIsel
H. Amy Beach, *Piano Quintet in F Minor*, https://youtu.be/4TixQc_1zTA?si=VMA1AVQYyi9xfhKi
I. Harry von Tilzer, "Take Me Out to the Ball Game", https://youtu.be/HnHV5FaqvEs?si=-sg2hd2DgRdflifN
J. Linda Ronstadt and Nelson Riddle Orchestra, 1984, https://youtu.be/0XpDZhrNqnM?si=WJ4_qmt660ljKsIS
K. Ella Fitzgerald and Duke Ellington, "It Don't Mean a Thing If It Ain't Got that Swing", Ed Sullivan Show, 1965, https://youtu.be/myRc-3oF1d0?si=L2EJbLSAk2LUt7z4
L. John Philip Sousa, *George Washington Bicentennial* March, US Marine Band, https://youtu.be/CokcSY4iWEw?si=6dKLD7a0SrdN7yEP
M. Dave Brubeck, *Blue Rondo a la Turk*, https://youtu.be/j9GgmGLPbWU?si=ZaBFAF2jPReokC6i
N. Leonard Bernstein, "Dance-Off" (Mambo) from *West Side Story* film, 1961, https://youtu.be/1u9CAaxMKWY?si=OcIitd_uLO10RWvq
O. John Williams, "Imperial March" from Star Wars with Vienna Philharmonic, https://youtu.be/vsMWVW4xtwI?si=179s_JakNlpiYonc
P. Jerome Kern, "Can't Help Lovin' That Man", *Show Boat* film, 1936, https://youtu.be/8cZmvLixcTA?si=dxcn8NHrCaYpeUcX

X. Sources

A. "Music History of the United States," Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Music_history_of_the_United_States.

B. "Film Score," Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Film_score.

XI. Recordings/Films Used Today

1. Wind River: The Renaissance of the Native American Flute, ARC Records, EUCD 1662
2. Santa Fe Desert Chorale, Live from Loretto Chapel, Clarion CLR930CD
3. Boston Baroque, Lost Music of Early America, Telarc CD-80482
4. The Odyssey of Paul Robeson, Omega Classics OCD 3007
5. Fisk Jubilee Singers, Sacred Journey (DVD) Sunrise Records
6. The Weavers, Wasn't That a Time (4 CD set), Vanguard VCD4-147/50
7. Bruce Springsteen, We Shall Overcome-The Seeger Sessions (DVD) brucespringsteen.net
8. Best of Louisiana Cajun Classics, MG 1006
9. Boston Pops Orchestra, Keith Lockhart, cond., American Visions RCA BG2 68786
10. American Pioneers, Brilliant Classics 96086

11. William Bolcom, piano, Euphonic Sounds, Omega Classics, OCD 3001
12. Piano Classics 10 CD set, Explorer Set: American Edition, Piano Classics PCL10330
13. William Bolcom, piano and Joan Morris, mezzo-soprano, After The Ball, Nonesuch 9 79148-2
14. Linda Ronstadt, Hummin' to Myself, Verve b0000887-02
15. The Heritage of John Philip Sousa, Volume 4, Altissimo Recordings
16. Strike Up The Band, Military Music America 75442201042
17. Bennett/Brubeck, The White House Sessions 1962, Columbia /RPM Records/Legacy 88883718042
18. Bernstein/Gershwin/Ives, DGG Unitel Classica (DVD) 00440 073 4513
19. Leonard Bernstein, "Mambo" from *West Side Story* Naxos 8.559813
20. John Williams and the Boston Pops Orchestra, Complete Recordings, Decca 487 1645