

Senior Citizens Music Appreciation Program

Date: October 30, 2024

Time: 10:30-noon

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### **Great Conductors: Rafael Kubelik**

#### **I. Announcements**

##### **A. Dates and topics for Music Appreciation, Oct.—Dec. 2024**

Wed., Oct. 30: Great Conductors—Rafael Kubelik  
Mon., Nov. 18: Franz Lehar and Viennese Operetta  
Mon., Dec. 16: Music of Great Cities—Paris and Prague

##### **B. NJ Symphony—Potential Trip Dates, 2025      **Need to establish preferences today****

Sunday, Feb. 2, 2025, 3 pm      Morristown      Shaw, Vaughn-Williams, Holst  
(Planets, with projected NASA images)

Sunday, Feb. 23, 2025, 3 pm      New Brunswick      Loggins-Hull, Chopin Piano  
Cto. 1, Brahms Symphony 1

Sunday, April 6, 2025, 3 pm      New Brunswick      Childs, Tchaikovsky,  
Beethoven Symphony 9 (Choral)

#### **II. Rafael Kubelik, 1914-1996**

- A. Czech conductor and composer, born the day after the assassination of the Archduke Ferdinand of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the spark that led to the onset of hostilities that developed into World War I
- B. Son of the esteemed violin virtuoso Jan Kubelik (1880-1940); his mother was a Hungarian countess
- C. Born into a musical family of 7 children; in addition to his own musical talents, his 5 sisters were all musicians
- D. Educated at home and then at the Prague Conservatory
- E. Graduated in 1933 after studying composition, violin and piano
- F. Accompanied his father on concert tours in Europe and the USA in the 1930s
- G. Invited to conduct the Czech Philharmonic by its music director Vaclav Talich in the mid-1930s, and then took the orchestra on two tours of the UK and other European countries
- H. Appointed director of the Brno Opera in 1939, a post he retained until the Nazis closed the theater in 1941

- I. Became music director of the Czech Philharmonic in 1942 and continued in that post through World War II
- J. Married his first wife, the violinist Ludmila Bertlova in 1942; their only child Martin Kubelik was born in 1945
- K. Had a significant role in creating the Prague Spring music festival, which commenced in 1946
- L. Began making recordings in the late 1930s and continues doing so with various groups until the 1980s
- M. Emigrated with his family from Czechoslovakia after the communist coup in 1948
- N. Guest conducted orchestras in Europe, S. America, Israel, Canada, Australia, and the US from 1945 onwards until his retirement in 1985
- O. Became music director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in 1950, remaining there until Spring 1953
- P. Music director of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden (London) from 1955-1958)
- Q. Ludmila Bertlova dies in 1961; Kubelik marries soprano Elsie Morison in 1963
- R. Becomes music director of the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra in 1961; remains in that post through 1979, then becomes emeritus principal guest conductor with the orchestra through 1985
- S. Served as the first music director of the Metropolitan Opera from 1972 through January 1974, when he resigns that post
- T. Returns in triumph to conduct the opening concert of the Prague Spring Festival in 1990 after the fall of communism in Czechoslovakia
- U. Dies in Luzerne Switzerland in August 1996

#### Today's Musical Examples

- |   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| 1. Martinu, Memorial to Lidice (March 1046)                                   | Czech Philharmonic  |
| 2. Dvorak, Piano Concerto (with Rudolf Firkusny, June 1946)                   | Czech Philharmonic  |
| 3. Mussorgsky, Pictures at an Exhibition (1951)                               | Chicago Symphony    |
| 4. Hindemith, Symphonic Metamorphosis, 1953                                   | Chicago Symphony    |
| 5. Smetana, Overture to the Bartered Bride, 1952<br>Orchestra (London)        | Philharmonia        |
| 6. Mozart, Prague Symphony (#38)  | Vienna Philharmonic |
| 7. Rehearsal Excerpt, Bruckner Sym #4   | Vienna Philharmonic |
| 8. Berlioz, Les Troyens (March, 1974, Live performance)<br>Orch.,             | Metropolitan Opera  |
|   | Chorus and Soloists |
| 9. Mahler, Sym #2 (Resurrection), Final Movement (1982)<br>Symphony Orchestra | Bavarian Radio      |
| 10. Smetana, Fanfares from Libuse, Opening of<br>Prague Spring Festival 1990  | Czech Philharmonic  |
| 11. Dvorak, Hussite Overture, Live recording 1991                             | Chicago Symphony    |

#### YouTube Videos

Dvorak, Symphony 9 and rehearsal <https://youtu.be/uKTdSGz7KpU>

Documentary, “My Music is My Country” <https://youtu.be/19CJdVhMWx8>

Kubelik Conducts Smetana, Ma Vlast at 1990 Prague Spring Festival  
<https://youtu.be/76R0N2GN6Jo>

Kubelik Conducts Dvorak, Symphony No. 9, BRSO, 1977 <https://youtu.be/yBKiaOzfpL0>

Kubelik conducting Bruckner, 4<sup>th</sup> Symphony Vienna Phil. <https://youtu.be/q2mLQukuwRw>

Kubelik conducting Beethoven, Symphony 2, Concertgebouw 1970  
<https://youtu.be/0eAMU7k7UhM>

Kubelik conducting Dvorak, Symphony 7, BRSO (1978) [https://youtu.be/pvoL6\\_zGar0](https://youtu.be/pvoL6_zGar0)

Kubelik conducting Mahler, Symphony 9, NYPO, Jan. 13, 1978 (audio only)  
<https://youtu.be/ig51RD2Kuk8>

Kubelik conducts Martinu, Double Concerto, Chicago Symphony, 1982 (audio only)  
<https://youtu.be/Gh9fkbMfSJA>

Kubelik conducts Mozart, Piano Concerto 27, Clifford Curzon pianist, BRSO 1970 (audio only)  
<https://youtu.be/yYe1MDTVf9g>

Kubelik conducts JS Bach, Violin Concerto E Major, Gioconda de Vito soloist, London Sym. Orch., 1959 (audio only) <https://youtu.be/Svjr-sLQY1I>

Kubelik conducts Beethoven, Symphony 9, BRSO, 1970 <https://youtu.be/WoYCipkSRiE>

Kubelik conducts Dvorak, Legends, Aldeburgh Festival 1976, live (audio only)  
<https://youtu.be/1FsffdP3bQU>

Kubelik conducts BRSO and choir, Mozart, Te Deum, 1981, <https://youtu.be/szh8YymdsFg>

Kubelik Conducts Brahms’ German Requiem 1977, BRSO  
[https://youtu.be/\\_NisoZIp1\\_g](https://youtu.be/_NisoZIp1_g)

Kubelik and BRSO, Schubert Sym. 9, 1970 (audio only)  
<https://youtu.be/N6LQq536Dso>

### Recordings

Martinu, Dvorak Piano Concerto: Supraphon SU 4080-2	Great Czech Conductors, Rafael Kubelik
Mussorgsky, Pictures at an Exhibition Profil PH 19019	Rafael Kubelik, Collection of East Classics

Hindemith, Symphonic Metamorphosis Membran 231668	Rafael Kubeli, 1914-1996
Smetana, Overture to Bartered Bride Testament SBT 1181	Rafael Kubelik
Mozart and Bruckner DG 00440 073 4325	Rafael Kubelik: A Portrait (DVD)
Berlioz, Les Troyens Opera Depot PO 11562	Rafael Kubelik, Met Opera
Mahler, Sym. #2 Audite 23.402	Rafael Kubelik, BRSO
Dvorak, Hussite Overture Chicago Sym Orch. CD92-2	A Tribute to Rafael Kubelik