

DOLCI BY THE BAY CONCERT NO. 18

Ted Rust, oboe; Viva Knight, piano

Album of Five Pieces (arr. by Susan Jolles and Bert Lucarelli)

Reverie (1890)

Arabesque No. 2 (1888-1891)

Bruyères (from Preludes, Book 2, 1912-13)

Prélude (from Suite Bergamasque, 1905)

Menuet (from Suite Bergamasque, 1905)

In 1889, Claude Debussy, already an accomplished and innovative composer, heard Javanese gamelan music at the Exposition Universelle in Paris, and Western music was changed forever. Debussy recognized that music could be structured in scales and rhythmic patterns far removed from the rules and conventions he had learned at the Paris Conservatoire. These five pieces were written as piano solos, and arranged for oboe and harp or piano by the harpist Susan Jolles and the oboist Bert Lucarelli. Their order is chronological, and shows how Debussy's style evolved towards greater complexity and tonal ambiguity as he digested his early musical influences.

Claude Debussy (1862-1918)



Sonatina, op. 100

Allegro risoluto (Central Park Outing)

Larghetto (Minnehaha Falls)

Scherzo (Carousel Ride)

Finale: Allegro (Homeward Bound)

Dvorák wrote this *Sonatina* in 1893 for his teenaged son and daughter. He was then living in America with his family for three years to serve as director of the National Conservatory in New York and to study American folk music, with a goal of helping to create an American style of classical music. Sorely homesick, he spent his summers in the Czech-speaking village of Spillville, Iowa where he could hear and use his native language. While in America he composed the symphony "From the New World," the "American" string quartet and this *Sonatina*. It uses popular song ("My Darling Clementine"), Native American chant, African-American song, carousel music and a rollicking polka in much the same way he probably spoke English: intelligibly but with a strong Czech accent. His American Indian chant may have the flavor of a Gypsy song, but then, Mel Brooks' Indians in "Blazing Saddles" spoke Yiddish. The movement titles above are Dolci's, inventions, based on Dvorák's travels in America. Dvorák gave only the tempo markings.

Antonin Dvorák (1841-1904)



NEXT WEEK: RIMSKY-KORSAKOV AND TCHAIKOVSKY