

Ted Rust, oboe
Viva Knight, piano
Dolci by the Bay
Concert No. 55:
In Memoriam

This concert remembers the war dead of all nations, honors their bravery and grieves for their loss. Far from glorifying war, it deplores the helplessness of the people caught up, damaged and destroyed in its recurring madness.



Vietnam War Memorial by Maya Lin

Temporal Variations (1936)

Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

Temporal Variations for Oboe and Piano was written soon after Benjamin Britten, a pacifist, visited Barcelona at the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War. It was Britten's first sketch for his War Requiem, which he completed twenty years later.

1. *Theme*: a stark two-note motive, a rising semitone, inflected like a question and left unresolved. The variations are all built on this theme.
2. *Oration*: a speech at a war rally.
3. *March*: a recruiting parade.
4. *Exercises*: military training.
5. *Commination*: a menacing Anglican Church liturgy listing the punishments of evil-doers.
6. *Chorale*: a hymn, punctuated by air-raid sirens.
7. *Waltz*: wounded veterans try to dance.
8. *Polka*: the dance, interrupted by a barrage.
9. *Resolution*: In Great Britain during World War II, church bells were ordered never to be rung except to signal an enemy invasion. The piano evokes a wild tolling of bells. The oboe repeats the opening theme but ends it with a twist: the final accent is moved to its second note, turning the question into a terrifying answer.

Ballade (1952)

Hendrik Andriessen (1892-1981)

Ballade evokes the experiences of the Dutch people under German occupation during World War II, beginning with a lament in the style of Jewish liturgical music and ending with a funeral march.

Arioso from Cantata 156 (1720)

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Bach's *Arioso* is the centerpiece of a cantata whose title translates; "I stand with one foot in the grave." It was composed in a time when most of Europe was embroiled in the War of the Quadruple Alliance. The text of the *Arioso* is about peacefully accepting one's own mortality: "Lord, what you will, I must do." Bach reused the music in many later settings, including the slow movement of his Oboe Concerto.

NEXT CONCERT: ITALIAN MUSIC, MAY 29 AT AQUATIC PARK