

[Slava enters]

Band Plays FLIGHT OF THE PEGASUS

Thank you for your applause and thank you for sharing an evening with us as we present tonight's concert entitled "Souvenir".

Of course, *A souvenir* is something a person keeps for the memories they associate with it. The thing itself may have no intrinsic value – it's the memory it inspires that's important.



And the relationship between the memory and the souvenir is not always obvious.

For example, during the piece of music we just played, were you inspired with visions of flying horses and Greek heroes and goddesses getting up to all sorts of mischief? Maybe not, but that is the scenario that composer David Shaffer gave to his 1993 work “Flight of the Pegasus”.



Obviously memories and souvenirs are very personal and do not easily transfer from one person to another.

The next work on the program is much clearer in the relationship between what you hear and the sort of memories or images it might call forth.



Since it is music that was written for a film, that's its job – to support the story. The story is by John Steinbeck and it's called The Red Pony. The 1948 film is about a young boy growing up on a California ranch. The music is by Aaron Copland.

Copland arranged his film music into an orchestral suite and later adapted it for band.



I won't go into the plot of the film – it's quite the tear-jerker in places but at least there's a happy ending.

The first two sections of the suite are dream sequences about knights marching into battle and later, about being a ringmaster of a three ring circus. I think you'll agree – it's very memorable music.

The Red Pony film suite by Aaron Copland.



Band Plays The Red Pony

Now, remember, next time you happen to see a lion tamer or a trapeze act, you have soundtrack music to go along with it.

NEXT NEXT NEXT



Brain Balmages Arabian Dances

Folk songs are in many ways a kind of folk or community memory. They preserve the memory of events or people and transmit at least some of that from one generation to the next. One part of the world where that is especially true is the Middle East.

NEXT NEXT NEXT



Composer Brian Balmages uses several middle eastern folk songs as part of our next selection, Arabian Dances.

After this piece there will be a 10 minute intermission. In the lobby we have a sign up sheet so you can join our mailing list. Also there is a donation basket – we greatly appreciate any contributions you make. Now we present Arabian Dances by Brian Balmages



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BAND PLAYS CAPRICCIO ITALIEN

The piece we just played,
Capriccio Italien, by Peter Illych Tchaikovsky
Could easily be called “memories of Italy”.

Tchaikovsky wrote it during a visit to Rome in 1880. In this piece he included an Italian Cavalry Bugle call, carnival songs, Italian street music, and an Italian folk dance, the tarantella. It really is the ultimate musical souvenir.

NEXT NEXT NEXT



Trailridge Saga

James Barnes

Next on the concert is a piece that wouldn't be out of place as part of a soundtrack for a western movie. But that's not really what's going on here. James Barnes was commissioned to write this piece – Trailridge Saga - by friends and family of a band director who was retiring after more than 40 years of teaching – at Trail Ridge Middle school. A good example of how titles and memories don't always mean what you think they might.

Trailridge Saga by James Barnes



All the other works on tonight's concert were more about the memories and experiences of the composers – there was no direct connection to you, the audience. To be honest, you might have never heard some of those pieces before so THIS concert will be your memory of them. I guarantee that's not the case with our final piece tonight.

Unusual for soundtrack music, when it premiered, this work made it to #10 on the Billboard "hot 100" chart. It was certified Platinum, won a grammy, and an Oscar. Later it was named the most memorable score of all time for an American film and the library of congress entered it into the National Recording Registry, calling it culturally, historically, and aesthetically significant.

The music is by John Williams, the arrangement we play tonight was done by Donald Hunsberger. As our final selection tonight we present Star Wars Trilogy.

