

December, 2000

BUILDING A LISTENING LIBRARY

The following list is presented by the ASTEC Faculty as a guide to building a classical listening library. It is by no means an exhaustive list, but is designed to give you an overview of some of the shining examples of different styles and instruments. For your convenience, the list is divided into sections; however, this is not meant to imply that a pianist should listen only to piano music, or that a string player should listen only to orchestral music. Indeed, we as a faculty feel that listening to many different instruments and combinations provides both a better learning experience and a more enjoyable one. Some listings represent specific recordings. Others are merely titles of pieces, which are fairly common and can be found in a store or music club that carries classical music. It is our hope that this list will help you to get started on a marvelous listening adventure that will last a lifetime.

Recordings/videos for Young Children

“Mr. Bach Comes to Call”
“Beethoven Lives Upstairs”
“Mozart’s Magic Fantasy”
“Vivaldi’s Ring of Mystery”

From the
“Classical Kids”
collection by
Susan Hammond

Music for Your Baby-Valery Lloyd-Watts, piano

Orchestral Music for Children

Britten-The Young Person’s Guide to the Orchestra

Prokofiev-Peter and the Wolf for Narrator and Orchestra, Op. 67

Saint-Saens-Carnival of the Animals for 2 Pianos and Orchestra-Leonard Bernstein,
narrator and conductor(also includes above mentioned Britten and Prokofiev)

Ferdinand and Friends-Steve Bjella, violin

Collections of short solos

Encores – Itzhak Perlman, violin with Samuel Sanders, piano

The Violinist-Aaron Rosand, violin with Eileen Flissler, piano

Romances and Elegies for Viola and Piano-Kim Kashkashian, viola with Robert Levin,
piano

William Primrose- viola - features works by Bach, Paganini, Brahms, etc.

Portrait of Yo-Yo Ma-cello - features works by Bach, Haydn, Kreisler, Paganini

Starker Encore Album-Janos Starker, cello – works by Schubert, Saint Saens, Bloch

Rubinstein Favorites-Arthur Rubinstein, piano
Favorite Encores-Vladimir Horowitz, piano
Falling in Love with Chopin-Valery Lloyd-Watts, piano
Scenes from Childhood (Kinderszenen) by Robert Schumann
The Well-tempered Clavier (Preludes and Fugues) by J.S. Bach
Children's Corner Suite by Claude Debussy
Children's Songs , Pavorotti performing
If You Love Me-18th Century Songs-Cecilia Bartoli, mezzo-soprano
Valses de Paris, Valses de Vienna-Felicity Lott, soprano
Opera Arias , Monsoratt Caballe performing

Concertos for various instruments

Mendelssohn-Concerto in e for Violin Op. 64 and Bruch-Concerto in g for Violin Op. 26
Joshua Bell, violin w/ Marriner conducting Academy of St. Martin in the Fields
Tchaikovsky-Concerto in D for Violin, Op.35 and Brahms-Concerto in D for Violin,
Op. 77-Jascha Heifitz-violin w/ Fritz Reiner conducting Chicago Symphony
Dvorak-Concerto in b for Cello, Op. 104 and Saint-Saens-Concerto in a for Cello, Op. 33
Mstislav Rostropovich, cello with Giulini conducting London Philharmonic
Grieg-Concerto in a for Piano, Op. 16 and Schumann-Concerto in a for piano, Op.54
M. Perahia, piano with Colin Davis and the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orch.
Tchaikovsky-Concerto No. 1 in B flat for Piano, Op. 23 and Rachmaninoff-Concerto
No. 2 in c for Piano, Op. 18-Van Cliburn, piano w/ Fritz Reiner and Chicago Sym.
Mozart-Piano Concertos-sold as a complete set or individually-M. Perahia, piano
Vivaldi-The Four Seasons

Chamber Music

Beethoven-Trio No. 6 in B flat for Piano, Violin and Cello, "Archduke"-
Beaux Arts Trio
Beethoven-String Quartets, Op. 18-Guarneri String Quartet
Debussy-String Quartet in g and Ravel-String Quartet in F- Juilliard Quartet
Mendelssohn-Octet in E flat for Strings, Op. 20-Marlboro Festival Ensemble or
Academy of St. Martin in the Fields Chamber Ensemble
Mozart-String Quartet No. 17 in B flat K. 458, "Hunt"-Alban Berg String Quartet
Mozart- Quartets in g and E flat for Piano and Strings-Beaux Arts Trio and B. Giuranna
Schubert-Piano Quintet in A, "Trout Quintet"-R. Serkin, piano, J. Laredo, violin
L. Parnas, cello and J. Levine, bass

Symphonies and other Orchestral Music

Beethoven-Symphony No. 5 in c, Op. 67 and Symphony No. 6 in F, Op.68, “Pastorale”

William Steinberg, conducting the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra

Beethoven-Symphony No. 9

Handel-Water Music and Music for the Royal Fireworks

Mozart-Symphony No. 40 in g, K 550 and No. 41 in C, K. 551, “Jupiter”-Herbert

von Karajan conducting the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra

Mozart-Eine Kleine Nachtmusik

Mussorgsky-Pictures at an Exhibition and Night on Bald Mountain-C. von Dohnanyi

conducting the Cleveland Orchestra

Tchaikovsky-Symphony No.6 in b, Op. 74, “Pathetique”-G. Solti conducting

the Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Tchaikovsky-Nutcracker Suite for Orchestra, Op. 71a-L. Slatkin conducting the

Minnesota Orchestra. Also includes Haydn-Toy Symphony and Prokofiev-Peter and the Wolf.

Choral

Handel-Messiah

Brahms-A German Requiem

Some helpful definitions:

Concerto = solo instrument with orchestral accompaniment

Sonata (piano) = solo piano piece

Sonata (instrumental) = solo instrument usually with piano accompaniment

Chamber Music = small group of instruments with one person on each part